Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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NO ACTION DUE ON CHILD'S FALL

Report by Andrew Turton

AN investigation launched into a one-year-old girl's fall from a window, has ruled that it was an accident.

Parents of Lilly Taylor claimed she fell out at their Tipton home after a council worker left a window open.

Lilly needed surgery after suffering a head injury caused by the fall at the family's home in Highfield Road last October.

The youngster, who fell from a first floor window, continued her recovery at home while an investigation was launched by Sandwell Council and West Midlands Police.

This week both the police and the council say the investigation has concluded that Lilly's fall was due to an accident and no further action would be taken.

The accident happened after a workman had been carrying out repairs at the family home. Speaking at the time her father Craig Taylor said three windows in the house were being replaced on the day and believed a bedroom window had been left ajar.

Ysterday, Mr Taylor said they had not been aware of the conclusion of the probe, adding: "I have heard nothing and we have been waiting."

He said the family could not speak further at this stage as they had been taking legal advice.

Decision

Sandwell Council's director of neighbourhoods, Adrian Scarrott, said: "Both the police and Sandwell Council carried out investigations at the time of the incident and both investigations resulted in the decision that no further action was needed."

A West Midlands Police spokesman added: "An enquiry was conducted during which the child's parents and a council workman – who'd carried out repair work on windows at the property – were spoken to.

"The conclusion was that the child's fall was an accident."

Mr Taylor previously spoke of his horror at finding his young daughter lying in his garden as he returned home from a DIY store.

It is believed that after being put down for a nap, she had crawled out of an open window before plunging to the ground.

Speaking after the accident, he said: "I'm traumatised, I will never, ever forget this.

"We have just moved in and I am redecorating my little girl's room, so I went to the DIY store to get some more paper.

"When I got back, everyone was crowded up the alley by the side of my house. I walked up there and found my little girl on the floor, choking on her tongue.

"I ran up to her, took her tongue out of her mouth and put her in the recovery position."

Lilly was then rushed to Birmingham Children's Hospital for emergency surgery.

His partner, Stephanie Moreton, then aged 21, was sitting downstairs watching television with their older son Tyler when Lilly fell.

Active Phoebe gets in the mood for dancing, at 103

Phoebe Cotter celebrates her 103rd with senior care assistant Helen Chatwin

Centenarian keeps healthy with exercises

A FORMER dancer has twirled her way to her 103rd birthday – and exercising is still one of her favourite activities.

In her younger years Phoebe Cotter won medals in ballroom dancing. For the last five years she has lived at The Gables Care Home in Oldbury where she is adored by staff.

Care Assistant Tracy Clutterbuck said: "Even now she loves doing her exercises. She still gives it a great go with her arms. Her other favourite thing is the entertainment that we put on here."

Phoebe and Fred

Phoebe's family and friends were at the home off Wolverhampton Road on March 20 to help celebrate her latest milestone.

The former Marks and Spencer seamstress was born at her home in Chapel Street, Handsworth, just 25 days before the Titanic hit an iceberg.

She was the fifth of 10 siblings, with five sisters and four brothers, and attended St James's School in Handsworth.

Mrs Cotter trained to be a seamstress at a young age and spent most of her working life at Lewis's in Birmingham.

Tracy added: "She is a lovely lady and all the staff here at the home love her. She is always cheerful and has a smile on her face."

She married her childhood sweetheart Fred and the couple lived in Aston until he passed away in 1980.

And although she never had any children herself, she has a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

In earlier life she loved to take family holidays, but every weekend she and Fred would head to their caravan in Bewdley – with pet budgie Joey. She also loves to paint, knit and sew.

TRAFFIC

Drivers' misery as horses invade M6

A QUARTET of equine invaders forced the M6 in Birmingham to close in both directions causing lengthy tailbacks.

Three horses and a foal escaped on to the carriageway between Junctions 4A for the M42 and 5 Castle Bromwich at around 7.45pm on Monday. Officers from the Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG) eventually corralled the animals.

Traffic built up in both directions as a result of the incident, with queues of up to two miles heading towards the city.

The animals were safely relocated.

HIGHWAYS

Leader welcomes cash for potholes

THE leader of a Black Country council has welcomed a £7.4 million grant to enable its workmen to keep on top of potholes in the borough's roads.

Sandwell Council has received the funding to enable improvements on 30 miles of roads.

The council's leader Darren Cooper said: "We have already prioritised potholes so this is a bonus on top of the money that we have already spent and this will enable us to keep on top of the potholes that we have had."

ARMED FORCES

Call for veterans to contact council

ARMED forces veterans who have never had their medals and badges presented to them, or would like them presented again, are urged to contact Sandwell Council.

An Armed Forces Day event is due at Oldbury Civic Square on Saturday, June 27. A parade starts at 11.30am, followed by a free event for all the family.

Any veterans who would like their medals or badges formally presented should call the Mayor's Parlour on 0121 569 3041.

Anyone who thinks they are entitled to one of the HM Armed Forces Veterans badges should call the Veterans UK helpline on 0808 1914218.

COMPETITION

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Spongebob Square-chance to meet

Spongebob – on his way

THE much-loved cartoon character, SpongeBob SquarePants, will be coming ashore to visit Queens Square Shopping Centre next Thursday.

The yellow sponge in shorts will be around between 11.30 am and 3.30 pm to meet and greet fans. SpongeBob will be at the centre, opposite Boots as part of a treat for youngsters who are off school for the Easter Holidays.

The yellow TV character who lives in the fictional underwater city, Bikini Bottom, will be at Queens Square Shopping Centre for one day only.

There will be a free prize draw taking place on the day, where shoppers could be in with a chance of winning some fantastic SpongeBob SquarePants goodies.

Customers

Melvin Glasby, Centre Manager at Queens Square said: "We know kids will be so excited to meet SpongeBob, especially after the recent movie release and it's a way for us to say thank you to our customers for their continued, loyal support and will kickstart our schedule of free family events."

Melvin continued: "There are lots of fantastic things happening for families in the centre over the next few months - SpongeBob and Jurassic Adventures are just a selection of the treats that are coming up and we look forward to welcoming families to the centre to share in them."

Improvement work at route set to start

LONG awaited work to improve the safety and appearance of a major route in Sandwell is set to start next weekend.

The £2 million scheme for Bearwood Road and Cape Hill in Smethwick is due to start on Sunday April 12 with the installation of LED street lighting, which will be more energy efficient than the existing street lighting.

Once completed, work will then start on improving the pedestrian crossings in Bearwood Road following complaints from road users that they were unable to see the 'little green men' that light up on the existing crossings to show that they can cross.

Sandwell Council's deputy leader Steve Eling said there were more ambitious plans for the junction with Sandon Road at the Bear Tavern where diagonal pedestrian crossings will be put in, similar to ones in Oxford Circus in London.

Pavements and street furniture along the route will also be improved.

Designs

Preliminary work has already been taking place along the route with the main work to take place in phases over the coming months starting in April.

Bosses are also working on junction improvement plans for Bearwood Road with preliminary designs still being worked on.

Once completed these will go out for residents to have their say and to be approved by councillors. This work will also take place in phases and is expected to begin later this year.

The authority said improvements along Cape Hill were also in the pipeline with detailed designs now being worked on.

Public consultation will take place later this year and work will begin in the autumn. Cape Hill has one of the highest numbers of recorded road accidents in the borough with 34 incidents involving 40 casualties reported over the five years to the end of November last year.

Plans for the section of road include the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing in the main shopping area and bus stops relocated to either side of the proposed crossing.

Better lighting would come in at the route and a 20mph limit introduced along Cape Hill and its approaches.

Diamond couple still have sparkle

Vincent and Shirley Witton, hold their diamond wedding celebrations, which included a card from the Queen

IT was a love match made thanks to the silver screen after friends brought them together for their first date.

And now 60 years later Vincent and Shirley Witton are very much in love as they celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary.

Shirley was invited by friends to the Regent Cinema, in Tipton, where they watched a screening of the epic King Kong, starring Fay Wray.

Romance was to blossom when she met her husband-to-be who was still sporting his army uniform having come back from National Service.

"He was the smartest soldier around. He captured my heart," said Shirley, now aged 78.

Vincent, aged 81, worked as a window cleaner when he left school before serving two years in the army based around Worcester.

The couple courted for two years before tying the knot at St John's Church, in Princes End, Tipton, on March 19, 1955. They went to live with Mr Witton's mother Sarah off Wrens Hill Road, in Dudley. They later lived in Brunel Court, in Coseley but now live in Dudley again.

Mr Witton worked as a welder and the couple have three children, James, John and Julia, and 28 grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren. The couple celebrated their anniversary with a party at The Lodge, in Dudley, attended by more than 60 of their family and friends.

Questions raised over safety of homes site

THE site chosen for hundreds of new homes in Wednesbury may pose a threat to people's health, it has been claimed.

Local UKIP members have suggested thought has not been given to hazards they claim await residents who will move into properties Sandwell Council plans to construct on former sewage works near Friar Park and Bescot.

Steve Latham insisted an investigation must be carried out into the levels of harmful emissions that are coming from the nearby M6. The man hoping to be elected for UKIP in West Bromwich East also argued the noise levels could be unbearable for new residents.

Sandwell Council said the proposed scheme would create much-needed new housing for the borough.

If approved, the report recommends up to 10 per cent of the housing built on the site will be a mix of high-quality affordable housing and the rest will be developed for owner occupation.

But Mr Latham said: "Air pollution has been linked to a higher risk of disability or even death according to a report. Figures show that between 2010 and 2012 there were more than 4,000 average stroke deaths per year with more than a third in the Black Country.

"I call upon Sandwell Council to publish air quality figures for the last 10 years and to do an up to date investigation for comparison."

Labour councillor for Friar Park Geoffrey Lewis dismissed Mr Latham's comments and insisted his rival was using the issue as a 'political football'.

Call for teams get booted up

A CHARITY is appealing for teams to apply to take part in a sponsored walk at the Peak District. St Basils, which helps hundreds of homeless young people in the West Midlands, has opened the registration for its annual fundraiser.

The organisation runs the Live and Work scheme in West Bromwich, homelessness prevention services in Walsall and a supported accommodation scheme for 19 homeless young people who are in education, training or employment in Kidderminster.

This year's walk challenge will take place around the Roaches near Leek, on the south edge of the Peak District on June 6. There are two circular routes on offer which are 13 miles or 26 miles.

Visit www.stbasils.org.uk/walk for more details.

Plastics company set for expansion

A PLASTICS firm with sites in Staffordshire and Walsall is set to expand as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. General Building Plastics has grown to an annual turnover of £3.5 million. Based in Rugeley and with a shop in Queen Street, Walsall, iit is opening in Oswestry too.

60 stores in firing line with B&Q shake-up

THE decision to close 60 B&Q stores over the next two years casts a shadow over the future of around 3,000 workers – including hundreds in the Black Country.

But owner Kingfisher, Europe's biggest DIY retailing group, says it simply has too much shop space in the UK and it needs to offload stores that are not making a profit. The result will be the closure of 60 of B&Q's 360 shops.

There is a large B&Q store at Wednesbury.

The move will cost Kingfisher around £350 million, largely because of stores tied to 'onerous' leases.

The fact that new boss, Veronique Laury is prepared to spend that amount of money indicates how serious she is about the need to shake-up the business.

Many believe the problem lies in a decline in the DIY market, as more families rent and are less inclined towards home improvements.

And the decision by rival Home Retail Group to close a quarter of its Homebase DIY stores last October added to that belief.

The Homebase cuts, which will see around 80 stores closed by early 2018, followed a company review as the threat of online rivals and the rise of a generation 'less skilled in DIY projects' threatened a sector already squeezed by the economic downturn over the last few years.

But Ms Laury denied that the UK DIY market was in decline.

On track for film screening

A SPECIAL screening of the hit film The Railway Man will raise money for survivors of torture.

The film, starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman, will be screened at the MAC in Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park on April 26 in aid of Freedom from Torture. The charity helps to care for torture survivors seeking refuge in this country.

The film is based on the life story of Eric Lomax, who later became a patron of Freedom from Torture. Lomax suffered torture at a Japanese POW camp during the Second World War.

The screening starts at 2pm. Tickets cost £7.50 or £5.50 for concessions, and are available from the MAC box office, at www.macbirmingham.co.uk or 0121 446 3232.

Vehicle firm in move out of area

A SPECIALIST vehicle manufacturer is relocating from Willenhall to Worcestershire. NTM-GB is moving its workforce of 30 from the Rainbow Business Park, off Stringes Lane, to Kidderminster in July.

Footage highlights shoplift tactics

The team of thieves seen in action

IT took them just six minutes to choose their victim, have two failed theft attempts and a successful third as the woman was busy shopping.

And now police have revealed CCTV footage as part of a crackdown on pickpockets in Birmingham city centre. The video has been published via YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Vine to highlight the tactics of thieves as part of the #SpotThePickpocket Twitter campaign, launched by the police in November.

The footage shows four men in a pickpocket pack who thought they had a lucky swipe when targeting an unsuspecting shopper in a Birmingham store.

They chose their female victim within minutes. They had two failed attempts before a successful third.

The men managed to get away with her purse containing £40, but the main offender was caught by the store security. He was later arrested.

Sgt Andy Gregory, from the force's crime reduction team, said: "Theft offences across Birmingham are going down year on year and we believe this is partly down to people being more aware. Our advice is to wear a bag that goes across your body to hold your most valuable items. Never leave your bag unattended and be aware of what's going on around you."

In the last 12 months, 55 per cent of all thefts have been of mobile phones, so the force is encouraging people to keep their valuables out of sight and add them on the UK national property register at www.immobilise.com.

Anyone with information about pickpockets or who sees anyone acting suspiciously should call 101 and speak to an officer.

Firkins back in trouble as shops and jobs lost

FIRKINS has ceased trading with the closure of 23 shops and loss of 104 jobs.

The 144-year-old Black Country bakery firm, which has had a troubled history in recent years, is in liquidation following 'difficult trading periods on the high street'.

Shocked staff were phoned at home on Sunday and told not to come to work this week.

Both Firkins and Wollaston bakeries have closed down, including shops in the Saddlers Centre, Walsall; King Street, Darlaston; and High Street, Wednesfield. BRI, a Northampton-based business recovery and insolvency specialist, is now dealing with the situation. Firkins has been in and out of administration at least three times since 2000.

A statement from BRI read: "Following difficult trading periods on the high street, Newbridge Bakery (Retail) Ltd & Newbridge Bakery (Birmingham Retail) Ltd have announced that their shops trading as Firkins and Wollaston Bakery have closed and will cease to trade.

Transferred

"Unfortunately, despite efforts to improve shop profitability and because of the lack of new sales, the directors have taken steps to place the company into a creditors voluntary liquidation, which will result in the loss of 104 full and part-time jobs.

"Newbridge Bakery (Retail) Ltd & Newbridge Bakery (Birmingham Retail) Ltd were transferred into new ownership back in April 2014 and were a local supplier in Birmingham of bakery and confectionery goods. The closure will not affect other group companies including Oliver Adams Ltd based in Northampton."

One furious member of staff, who asked not to be named, said employees had been treated badly.

The worker said: "The way we have been treated is disgusting. Some of those who have lost their jobs have been working for the firm for 20 years and this is the thanks they get.

"They get a phone call at home saying it's all over after showing a long-term commitment. There were no staff meetings and no official warnings before we got that bombshell phone call out of the blue at home on a Sunday morning."

Mary Firkin started Firkins Bakery in 1870 with her award-winning pork pies and a single shop in Carters Green, West Bromwich.

Girls in tune as contest winners

Competition winners, the Glamophones, Carrie-Anne McNally, of Erdington, Kate Stallard, of Oldbury, and Laura Fleming, of Hollywood

A SINGING trio could soon be heading to Hollywood after reaching the national finals of a competition to find fresh musical talent.

Carrie-Anne McNally, Kate Stallard and Laura Fleming, known as the Glamophones, wowed the judges at the regional finals of the event held at Mecca Bingo, in Oldbury.

They won a coveted place at the event, which featured five other acts, after impressing at an earlier audition. For the regional final, the group performed their take on recent chart-topper Uptown Funk by Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars.

The judging panel comprised Sandwell's mayor Derek Rowley, Mecca area manager John Dyson and charity fundraising manager Sally Insley.

The victory means they have now qualified for the star-studded national final at Mecca Blackpool in June.

It will feature performers from across the entire country and will be hosted by TV personality and singer Stacey Solomon. The winner of the national final, will receive a prize of a trip to Los Angeles.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Addams Family fun at theatre

A STAGE show based on The Addams Family has opened in Birmingham.

Worcester on Stage will present the production at the Crescent Theatre in Brindley Place until Saturday.

It tells the story of stony-faced Wednesday Addams has grown up and found love with a 'normal' boy and he's bringing his family to dinner!

Evening performances start at 7.30pm and there is a 2.30pm matinee performance.

Tickets cost from £5 to £17.

To book call the box office on 0121 643 5858.

Former station in homes plan

A FORMER police station in Oldbury will be converted into a four bedroom house after plans were approved. The station in Perry Hill Road, Oldbury, closed in 2013 as part of cost-cutting measures by West Midlands Police.

Applicant, Hazhar Iqbal has been given planning permission for the project by Sandwell Council. The former station had been used for residential housing before it opened in 1998.

Plans to convert the property into shared accommodation were withdrawn earlier this year following objections from residents.

Easter activities due at museum

AN Easter trail, craft workshops and a fun day have been organised to keep youngsters entertained at Easter. The trail is at the Manor House Museum in Hall Green Road, West Bromwich between 11am and 2pm on Monday.

People who solve the puzzles will be in the running to win an egg. A spring time crafts event will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, running from 11am to 3pm.

For more information on events call the museum on 0121 5882985.

Probe begins on car that was set alight

POLICE are investigating after a car was set on fire in Tipton. Fire crews were called at around 2.45pm on Monday to reports of a car on fire on a patch of wasteland off Zion Road. The incident is being treated as arson.

One fire engine was dispatched from Tipton fire station to tackle the blaze near to Allens Sports Bar in Princes End. Investigations are now being carried out to track down whoever started the blaze, which was put out shortly before 4pm.

Tips to change hours

OPENING at tips at Merchants Way, Aldridge, and Fryers Road, Leamore, will go down to five days a week from six. Fryers Road tip will open every day except Thursday and Friday from 9am to 5pm and Merchants Way will be open every day except Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am to 5pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER writes: "I was looking at the menu in a restaurant and was wondering what the 'Jeremy Clarkson Special' was. Then it hit me."

AND yes, I got it wrong. In March last year I wrote: " If Clarkson blacked-up and did an impression of Barack Obama singing The Sun Has Got His Hat On, he'd still be unsackable." But that was when we thought Clarkson's downfall might be caused by his mouth, not his fists.

WHAT really depressed me was the number of Brits prepared to excuse Clarkson anything simply because he is a celebrity they liked. I always thought it was part of the British character instinctively to stand up for little people against oafs. Apparently not.

A READER, possibly having been stalked by the annuity vultures, tells me: "A financial expert is a person who explains to you tomorrow why what he predicted yesterday did not happen today."

IT looks as though we won't have to worry about what sort of government we get after May 7. We will get whatever government the Scots want us to have. So what was Culloden all about?

THIS is a good time to be a provincial. First, Ye Great Eclipse blazed in magnificence across the Midlands but was totally obscured by cloud in London. Admit it, did you not smile ever so slightly to see so many miffed Londoners? And then came the procession, lying-in-state and re-interment of a box of bones formerly known as Richard III. It was a joyously provincial affair, sentimental and sometimes a bit naff (did we really need knights on armoured horses?) but well-intentioned and peculiarly moving. And if you doubted for a moment that the London media elite felt this royal event should have taken place in the capital, you had only to hear Jon Snow's slip of the tongue as he welcomed us to proceedings "here in Westm, er, Leicester."

GARDENING just got interesting. A US company is launching a domestic flame thrower capable of squirting blazing fuel 25 ft. Its creators claims it can eliminate weeds and kill insects. And for those awkward tree roots, a B-52, perhaps?

ISN'T it odd that while so many MPs, supposedly the people's representatives, are in favour of HS2, it takes a committee in the House of Lords to recognise this pointless, ruinously expensive scheme for the madcap vanity project it is? The Lords say we don't need it and we can't afford it. Here, in the ermine-trimmed trappings of privilege, is the true voice of the people.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Tesco step to fundraising success

A BLACK Country supermarket had staff and customers alike on the march for a nationwide charity drive. The West Bromwich Tesco store in the New Square shopping centre were taking part in the chain's first charity event of the year.

The On Your March, Get Set, Go! event took place last Friday and Saturday and saw each store in the country challenged to walk the equivalent of a marathon, 26.2 miles. The community champion of the New Square store, Sid Sidhu, said the store gladly took up the challenge.

"For the past few years, Tesco has put on several charity drives for its charity partner, Diabetes UK, and has raised upwards of £80 million over the past few years," Mr Sidhu said. "This year not only were we doing it for Diabetes UK but we were also doing it for the Heart Foundation, and there is a target of almost £30 million."

The store got in touch with the nearby Pure Gym, who Mr Sidhu said provided two stepping machines and two able bodies to man them.

"It was a little disheartening at first because many of the staff were on holiday and there weren't as many people as I had hoped," Mr Sidhu said. "The weather also was not fantastic and you always see reduced footfall when it rains.

"But I was still chuffed with the amount we raised. All in all I think we raised around £400." Mr Sidhu said customers were very supportive.

"They were great," he said. "The customers in West Bromwich are always fantastic but they were a great boost."

NHS staff redeployed to other roles despite cuts

By Andrew Turton

DOZENS of staff at the NHS trust which runs Sandwell Hospital have been redeployed to other roles following consultations over job cuts.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust has faced criticism from the Care Quality Commission in the health body's latest inspection.

The CQC said the trust 'requires improvement' and said that aspects of the safety of services, including surgery and the outpatients department, at Sandwell were 'inadequate'. The trust, which also runs City Hospital, launched a consultation with staff last year over proposals to make around 1,400 job cuts over five years. But inspectors said the bid to boost safety was 'potentially at cross purposes' with the trust's proposals to axe jobs.

Changes

Now trust chief executive Toby Lewis said 150 staff members have been redeployed to other job roles rather than losing those individuals.

"At the time of the CQC inspection in October last year we had just begun consulting with staff on workforce changes to make sure we meet the health needs of our patients both now and in the future," he said. "The uncertainty of that consultation is reflected in the report.

"We have completed the first phase of these changes and I am pleased to say that we have successfully redeployed 150 people to other jobs within the trust.

"The second phase of consultation will take place this spring. We remain committed to keeping NHS staff within our services, even as roles change." Mr Lewis has already said that the trust, which also runs services at Rowley Regis Hospital, they needed more A&E consultants and nurses but staffing levels were safe. He added: "We keep our staffing levels under continual review to ensure we keep delivering safe care."

Locket boost for Dave's desert race

Gilly Page, of Kinver, with jewellery she made for charity runner, Blind Dave Heeley, of West Bromwich

WHEN charity champion Blind Dave Heeley starts a gruelling six-day race across the Sahara Desert, he will have his family close by thanks to a kind-hearted gesture from a jeweller.

Gilly Page, of Gilly Page Jewellery, was so moved by a speech that Dave gave about his condition at a networking event that she asked if he would like her to create a silver locket bearing the fingerprints of his wife and three daughters which he could wear around his neck.

The well-known runner and keen Baggies fan agreed and the Kinver jeweller visited his home to take the fingerprints of his wife Deb, aged 48, and children Grace, 24, Georgie-Lee, 13, and Dannie, 11, in clay which was fired to create the silver locket for the 57-year-old.

"I heard him speak at a networking event. He said he hoped that before the big man upstairs claimed him, scientific advances would allow him to see his children and I felt really moved by that," said Gilly.

"I decided that even if he could not see his children, he could have this dog tag as a lasting memento."Dave, who will be raising money for West Brom's charity the Albion Foundation, said: "The locket is lovely. I am going to take it to the desert with me."

Dave's run will be held in April. He has been getting in a lot of preparation including training in a humidity chamber at the University of Birmingham's school of sport, exercise and rehabilitation sciences. Visit www.justgiving.com/blinddaveMDS to donate.

Neighbour in dispute sent to jail for 2 years

A PARKING dispute between neighbours has ended with a man starting a two year jail sentence.

Kassim Dhala ignored the advice from police officers called to the scene after the row first flared in Grange Road, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Two hours later the 42-year-old picked up a metal bar with a pointed end, waved it above his head and threatened to kill a member of the family involved in the December 8 argument. Mr Robert Edwards, prosecuting said: "He was shouting 'I am going to kill you tonight."

Dhala, who was living with his father in the street at the time, was arrested when police returned following a further complaint.

The prosecutor continued: "He smelt of alcohol. He admitted the initial dispute had been about parking."

The defendant was arrested, held in custody overnight and then given bail by magistrates after appearing in court the following morning, the court was told. By 6pm that evening – just hours of his return to the address – Dhala was drunk once more and threatening to kill a female member of the family, it was said.

Dala was rearrested and remained in custody until his appearance at the Crown Court.

Dhala from Addenbrook Court, South Bank Road, Cradley Heath admitted possession of an offensive weapon and witness intimidation.

Traffic light fault leads to misery

FAULTY traffic lights at a notoriously busy island caused chaos during rush hour. Highways bosses were unable to say when the problem with the lights at the Birchley Island in Oldbury would be fixed.

The fault meant that, though the lights were still working, they were reset to their 'default setting' where they would react to traffic flow.

The result was traffic tailing back at the junction, causing delays of up to an hour on Monday evening

Tim Clark, spokesman for Wolverhampton City Council, which manages the Birchley Island traffic lights, said the issue had affected other sites across the network.

"It is something we know about and are trying to put right. We apologise for any inconvenience."

Bad parking move is hailed a success

A CRACKDOWN on dangerous parking across Sandwell has been heralded a success by council chiefs. Hundreds of drivers have been fined since the launch of a CCTV 'camera car' which has been patrolling the borough's streets.

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Thug jailed for pointing fake gun in bike dispute

A THUG who pointed an imitation gun at a house while on bail for two robberies has been jailed for six years and one month.

Arun Hudin, aged 22, struck first when he mercilessly ignored the pleas of a woman not to steal three gold chains that belonged to her recently deceased mother. He tore the jewellery from the victim's neck and snarled: "Shut up or you are going to get hurt," Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Miss Joanne Wallbanks, prosecuting, said: "She had been the main carer of her mother who had died months earlier."

It happened when Hudin and two other men snatched the ignition key out of a car in which the woman and a male friend were travelling as soon as it came to a standstill near shops in New Invention, Willenhall, last May.

Hudin was traced and arrested but had been released on bail pending further inquiries when he got into an argument in Whitegates Road, Coseley, on July 21, said the prosecutor.

The dispute stemmed from him riding a mini-moto around the area. Hudin returned to the scene four hours later after getting an imitation firearm from his home.

Miss Wallbanks explained: "Those inside feared that it might be fired."

The weapon was never found but the lawyer said it had been a BB gun.

Hudin from Masters Lane, Halesowen, was found guilty of the two robberies at trial after denying the offences but admitted possession of the imitation firearm.

Closure of tunnels sparks disruption

MOTORISTS face disruption after two main Birmingham road tunnels closed overnight for repairs.

The A38 St Chad's and Queensway tunnels shut from 10pm until 6am starting on Wednesday until May 8.

Officials say the closures are for remedial works to collision damage, cleaning of the walls and signage.

The closures will also allow developers involved in the Paradise Circus works to enter the tunnels to carry out structural inspections and testing.

During the closures, routine maintenance works that would otherwise be done later in the year will also be completed. There will also be a break in the closures on the evening of May 2 to allow for preparations for the Great Birmingham 10k Run.

Water pipes set to be installed

NEW water pipes are going to be laid in Great Barr. Temporary traffic signals will be put up in Tanhouse Avenue, in Hamstead, from April 20 to May 1. The pipes will be laid by contractor Amey for Severn Trent Water.

Health trust 'requires improvement'

Sandwell General Hospital

THE NHS trust which runs Sandwell Hospital was told it 'requires improvement' after health inspectors said aspects of safety were 'inadequate'.

A&E, medical care, surgery and children and young people's services also required improvement, the Care Quality Commission report found.

Critical care and end of life care were rated as 'good' but outpatient services were rated as 'inadequate' following the visit to Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

It comes as the trust, which also runs City Hospital, in Birmingham, has been holding discussions with staff over a potential 1,400 jobs over a five year period.

But the CQC report today said any drive to improve safety was 'potentially at cross purposes' with the trust's planned job cuts.

Inspectors said that currently in some cases staff were not able to attend training because of staffing constraints, or offer services over extended hours, also due to lack of staff.

Inspectors are demanding the trust takes action including improving nursing staff levels 'to ensure these are safe and meet the requirements of the service'. England's Chief Inspector of Hospitals, Professor Sir Mike Richards, said: "While we witnessed areas of good practice it is clear that the trust has work to do."

Toby Lewis, chief executive of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "My overriding feeling is that there are no surprises in the report and I am delighted some inspectors agree with us that we have caring staff."

Hospital seeking more staff in wake of report

MORE staff, including A&E consultants and nurses, will be recruited at Sandwell Hospital as part of an action plan being developed following a critical report.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, 'requires improvement', say inspectors from the Care Quality Commission.

The trust was told that the safety of services, including surgery and the outpatients department, at Sandwell were 'inadequate'

The trust, which also runs City Hospital in Birmingham, has been holding discussions with staff over a potential loss of 1,400 job losses over a five-year period.

But the CQC report said any drive to improve safety was 'potentially at cross purposes' with the proposed job cuts.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, said they needed more A&E consultants and nurses but staffing levels were safe.

He said: "We reviewed our nurse staffing levels last autumn and are absolutely confident that they meet or now exceed national safe staffing guidelines.

Retention

"We know we have more to do to fill our vacancies and cut staff sickness so that we have full teams consistently in place.

"We have cut agency use by a third and improved retention rates in our medical wards.

"We have great, caring staff and want them to have time to care. We keep our staffing levels under continual review to ensure we keep delivering safe care."

The report highlighted failings in hand washing to prevent the spread of infections, while there were other examples of medications not being locked away in cabinets.

Staff also failed to make adequate notes on patients' records, meaning important information was not passed on, such as what they had eaten for breakfast.

Mr Lewis said with the note taking, it was often the case that the action had been completed correctly, but a record of it had not been kept. He added: "The report is very clear that there is room for improvement and the kind of things the report invites us to focus on even more is handwashing, making sure that the care we provide is more accurately reflected in notes and the security of medicines."

Frank and Ann Martin, of Ebenezer Street, West Bromwich, who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on March 26

Cinema date was to start romance

A CINEMA date led to a lifetime of love for a West Bromwich couple celebrating 60 years of marriage.

Ann and Frank Martin, of Ebenezer Street, had their first date at a picture-house in Dudley Port in 1950 and married on March 26, 1955, after five years together. "I used to see him around and I thought he seemed like a nice boy," Mrs Martin, now 80 said. "He would ride his bike up and down and I would see him go past."

The pair courted for five years before Mr Martin, who was a brickmaker at the time, proposed and they married at St Martins Church, Tipton. "It wasn't a very big affair as I lost my father shortly before, but we had family there and it was a lovely day."

After they married, the pair went on to have 11 grandchildren through their children Susan, Pat, John and Alan. They also have 11 great-grandchildren. Mrs Martin retired 10 years ago and Mr Martin, now 84, was forced to retire at 60 because of ill health.

They celebrated the milestone with a trip to Llandudno in Wales.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MasterChef Gregg at Villa Park event

MASTERCHEF co-presenter Gregg Wallace will join Brummie chef Glynn Purnell for a live charity cookery event in Birmingham.

Michelin-starred chef Glynn Purnell is presenting Glynn Purnell's Friday Night Kitchen with Friends on Friday, October 2 at Villa Park to raise funds for Cure Leukaemia.

The evening will see Glynn prepare four courses on stage, helped out by some surprise celebrity guests. There will also be music from The Subteraneans and a DJ set by Heart FM's Russ Morris.

Crackdown on street drinking

POLICE have launched a crackdown on street drinking after complaints about yobs urinating, shouting and swearing in part of West Bromwich.

Police say people had been spotted drinking in the streets around the Carters Green area of the town by residents and business owners.

Residents had complained about people causing 'alcohol related anti-social behaviour' according to neighbourhood police also including littering in the streets. Alcohol has been confiscated and fixed penalties and dispersal notices issued too.

Scheme helping firms speed up

BUSINESSES in Birmingham are taking advantage of a Government voucher scheme that enables them to install superfast broadband.

Birmingham is one of more than 120 locations around the UK to be eligible for the vouchers aimed at helping companies to grow and develop.

Registered charities, social enterprises and sole traders can also qualify for the scheme which offers up to £3,000 per customer to install superfast circuits to their business.

Parishioners on way to temple for mass

CHURCH of England parishioners will attend a mass at a Hindu temple in the Black Country.

They will go to the Balaji Temple in Dudley Road East, Tividale, on April 11 at 10am. The visit has been arranged by Father Leonard Cox and Father John Barnett, interfaith officer for the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area.

Father Cox said: "We have a wonderful opportunity to visit this magnificent Hindu temple."

New candidate backed

THE Tories have 'unanimously' backed ex-Dudley Council leader Les Jones as replacement candidate for Dudley North after the resignation of Afzal Amin. Councillor Jones is a 'trusted' candidate having stood in 2001 and 2005 in Halesowen and Rowley Regis.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Top Gear gone and nothing to tune in for

IT'S time to put the Clarkson debate to bed. If you punch a colleague at work, you can expect to get the sack, no matter how talented you might be. And as for those 'concerned members of the public' who made official complaints to police after reading about it in the newspaper, you really need to find something more productive to do with your time. Like writing poison-pen letters to Points of View. In green ink.

However, Clarkson's sacking does raise a serious issue. Since Top Gear has been dropped, there has been nothing at all on mainstream television which I have any desire to watch. Not a thing.

OK, I still watch the news. And there are some decent repeats on some of the more obscure digital channels – mainly Top Gear now you mention it. And if they ever get round to bringing back The Apprentice, I will probably watch that. Soap operas, period dramas, singing and dancing contests, sorry it's just moving wallpaper. And then on Saturday night Channel 4 came up with what is surely one of the most yawn-inspiring ideas yet, a political drama about the talks leading up to the formation of the present coalition government. What next? Live paint drying?

Of course, people have different tastes, and just because I don't enjoy those programmes does not mean that other people should be denied the chance to watch them. But given that the BBC makes so much fuss about how it caters for the broadest possible audience, isn't something wrong that a pretty average Joe like myself can't find a single programme to watch?

Given that the broadcasters are already excluding certain sections of the population, what exactly is the licence fee for?

□□□□□

HERE is something I doubt we will be hearing much about from any of the major politicians over the next few weeks. Over the course of the past three years the Department of Food and Rural Affairs has spent a pretty tasty £420,000 of taxpayers' money killing 88 ducks because their feathers were the wrong colour.

Not that this is a purely coalition extermination programme it should be stressed.The decision to begin exterminating American ruddy ducks actually began in 2003, and between 2006 and 2011 successive administrations managed to wipe out 4,400 of these birds, which are said to threaten the existence of the European white-headed duck. It seems that governments of all colours are united that all ducks in Europe should be the same colour.

It seems that our feathered friends seem to rear their differingly coloured heads every time there is an election on. Last time it was duckhouses, this time it's duck eradication programmes.

Jeff, left, as the best man at Tony 'Bomber' Brown's wedding

Jeff Astle celebrates scoring that goal at Wembley

Proud grandfather – Jeff with grandson Matthew Furniss

Justice for Jeff with Baggies' kit tribute

ELIZABETH JOYCE looks at the upcoming tribute to Albion hero Jeff Astle when players will be donning a special kit

WEST Bromwich Albion will wear a historic 1968 kit in the Premier League next month as part of an emotional day of tributes to Hawthorns legend Jeff Astle.

The Baggies will don the famous white kit with red socks in which they won the FA Cup at Wembley, with fans' favourite Astle scoring the winning goal against Everton.

And the trip down memory lane – against Leicester City at The Hawthorns on April 11 – will help the family of the late striker launch the Jeff Astle Foundation.

Astle's daughter Claire said: 'Astle Day' will no doubt be an incredible and memorable occasion, made even more special with the launch of The Jeff Astle Foundation. It is a fitting tribute and lasting legacy in dad's name, to raise awareness of brain injury in sport and to offer much-needed support to those affected.

Understanding

"We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the FA and PFA for their continued understanding and efforts in addressing this very important issue.

"On a final note, the support we have received from football fans across the country has been phenomenal, none more so than from West Bromwich Albion supporters.

"Without their love and devotion for dad, none of this would have been possible. Dad would be so very proud."

The kit change represents a major coup for the Baggies, who have persuaded the Premier League to sanction a one-off switch for just the second time.

The only previous occasion saw Manchester United wear a retro kit to mark the 50th anniversary of the Munich air crash. Astle's family chose the game against Leicester to launch the foundation as the Foxes were the opponents against whom the legendary goalscorer made his Baggies debut in September, 1964.

Saido Berahino and Darren Fletcher in the special kit

Jeff Astle with John Kaye during the kick-off of the historic game back in 1968

The event will also mark the end of the 'Justice for Jeff' campaign, which has seen supporters stage a minute's applause on nine minutes and raise a banner at each Albion game this season. The foundation launched in his name will promote care of other sufferers and fund research into CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy), the brain condition that claimed his life in 2002 at the age of just 59.

A coroner ruled Astle's brain had been damaged as a result of heading heavy leather footballs throughout his career. The kit change will see all sponsors' names and branding removed, along with players' names.

Baggies chairman Jeremy Peace said: "We promised at the start of the season to honour both Jeff and his family's efforts to raise awareness of an important issue by dedicating a home game to him – and it promises to be a special day.

"The one-minute ovations for Jeff and the 'if in doubt, sit it out' campaign this season have been well-supported by fans up and down the country and now the launch of the foundation gives a new impetus to the family's efforts."

The club announced plans for the day in a video featuring Mr Peace, Astle's daughter Dawn, current club captain Darren Fletcher and Baggies legend Tony 'Bomber' Brown, who recalled Astle as best man at his wedding to wife Irene. Bomber said: "The foundation in Jeff's name is a fitting tribute to a fantastic guy.

"I just couldn't believe it. I went to see him and it just wasn't the same person I'd known. I must admit, the first time I saw him after he'd been really poorly, on the way home I just burst out crying.

"That's the way it got me. I was sobbing."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Nightmare of UK's balance book

LAST night I had a terrible nightmare. There I sat at the board table of a company by the name of UK plc.

The chairman kept referring to me as Mr Osborne and I seemed to have morphed into a creature with a strange haircut.

I was asked to present the financial director's report for the period the year ending March 18, 2015. I reported that during the last financial year, I was pleased to inform the board and of course shareholders that the company had achieved a loss of 90 billion pounds. I then explained that the current loan and overdraft situation was 1.5 trillion pounds. Compare this with the situation five years ago I said and we have achieved a doubling of the figure.

I sat down, confidently expecting applause and perhaps even a pat on the back but was astounded to see my fellow directors rolling about guffawing. At that point, I must have woken up. I then told my wife, who assured me: "Think of it this way Al, you could have evolved into Ed Balls."

A M ETHERIDGE
Sedgley

Cycling to help with recovery

NEWS that there are 68,600 people employed in the key manufacturing sector – the highest figure for five years – is very well-received.

However, the health of people in the Black Country is worse than the national average with higher levels of deprivation, a greater proportion of children living in poverty and more people diagnosed with diabetes.

Businesses, and charities must call for a proper strategy for cycling, illustrating corporate concern about road congestion, air quality and employee health. An aim of committing five per cent of the national transport budget infrastructure on the roads, to be designed according to national guidelines.

Cycling has been undervalued, poorly researched and starved of investment. Business intel and data has missed the rise in cycling, one of the UK's fastest-growing sports, a doorstep accessible sport, good for the manufacturing trades and our health.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

NHS problems lie with those in charge

HAVING been a regular visitor now for five months, several things have made me realise the problems in the NHS lie with those in positions of authority.

Hospitals require good active management, which appears to be non-existent. Let us stop blaming those people on the front line, who are generally doing an excellent job under the most trying of circumstances.

My experience is of the new Q E Hospital. Whoever commissioned and accepted this building must have had little or no experience of what happens in hospitals.

There appears to have been no thought in the actual operation of the wards and the distances having to be walked by all medical and non medical staff on a daily basis.

This hospital, whilst having the most modern and up-to-date equipment, apparently lacks its own kitchens, with the food being prepared, cooked and shipped about a hundred miles, to be reheated on trolleys at the hospital before serving to the patients.

Much of the food which I have seen is left uneaten and is later disposed of. We are always being told of the benefits of fresh food yet people who are ill get reheated food, much of which is inedible, highly seasoned and greasy. Would the senior managers like to live on these menus for a while?

L HALES
Cradley Heath

Benefits of our mayor

IN his criticism of the post of mayor, R Keeling (Letters, February 25), fails to mention the benefits which accrue in Sandwell and in other boroughs.

Last year, Sandwell's mayor raised £35,000 for local charities and in visits to numerous events and organisations brought pleasure, comfort and succour to disadvantaged people. The mayor acts as the borough's ambassador resulting in kudos for the area which attracts business investment.

D PARISH
Rowley Regis

Shops should pay for bags

A RECENT report brands England as a litter-ridden nation far worse than any of its European counterparts.

Much of the litter is plastic bags, fast-food packaging and drinks containers. The cost of the necessary clean-up is £850 million per year. From October, there will be a charge on plastic bags. This cost should be borne by the vendor. There should also be a deposit on drinks containers.

R TABERNER
Oldbury

Concentrate on residents

THERE has been a massive increase in the number of people being relocated to Darlaston from London and Birmingham, resulting in a huge demand for health and education. We should be looking at providing provision for the people of Darlaston as a priority.

PETER BURTON, UKIP

It's bingo and the Beast for quiz fan

Quizzer MARK SHIPP more than found his match with 'the Beast' at Bilston's Mecca Bingo

On their Marks – the Beast and contender Mark Shipp

TO take on the Beast – and win – was my brief for the night. But after coming up close and personal to the quiz giant, face-to-face even, I failed in my task.

You could say I let my family down, my friends and colleagues. But most of all, I let myself down.

It wasn't always like this. Less than a month ago, I took part in a similar interactive quiz against Mark Labbett, best known as one of the Chasers on the hit ITV show. That time, against 200 fellow hopefuls, I came close to taking him down, finishing a narrow third behind one other contestant.

So, armed with that knowledge, I tackled him again at Mecca Bingo in Bilston. And this time, there were only 68 others to beat. What could possibly go wrong?

But, with the top three earning a place against the Beast on the buzzer and the chance to win £500, the end result was, unluckily for me, a 13th place finish.

Not so unfortunate were Glenn Archer, Siobhan Michaels and Simon Watkins, who, following an intense battle over seven rounds, earned their places on the podium. It was all in vain as the Beast brushed them aside. But then again, most people fail to topple the Goliath.

"Maybe one day, someone will beat me," said Labbett. "But not today."

Justice

Glenn, though, a 54-year-old of Bradley, vowed he would not be afraid to take him on again – and vowed next time he would beat him.

Simon, meanwhile, said he did not expect to be given the chance to play for the £500 booty. "I am a fan of The Chase, and he's the best one on there, but it was nerve-wracking up there. I'm pleased with myself," said the 32-year-old of Wolverhampton.

Siobhan, 31, a pub quiz fan from Dudley, was also lured by the presence of the Beast, and at one point held a four-point lead over him. She had no regrets despite feeling she hadn't done herself justice in the music round, describing the whole experience as 'really good'.

Quizzical – Janet Gelder and Scott Westwood, of Coseley

Mark with Asher Riley, of Coseley and Tracey Bundonis, of Wolverhampton

'The Beast' Mark Labbett, with Mark Shipp, at Mecca Bingo, Bilston

Questions were set by pub quiz company Red Tooth, for whom Labbett works. There were rounds on general knowledge, music and headlines as well as a family fortunes-style round and a picture board – all against the clock. Yours Truly may have finished down the field, but just three more correct answers could have seen him challenge the king against the buzzer.

It was the second of 20 Mecca such bingo engagements for Labbett, a giant in every sense of the word at 6ft 7 and intimidating with it – on the quiz stage at least. He also participates in around 60 social events throughout the year and enjoys pitting his wits against members of the public. And, not being one to argue, I'll leave the last word to him.

"We know a lot of people like watching The Chase and events like these are good fun because it gives me a chance to take on all-comers. We always try to put on a good show," he said.

As part of his Mecca bingo tour, Mark Labbett will be at Oldbury tomorrow night (Friday). It starts at 9.30pm. Cost to play is £10, with VIP tickets, including a meal, drink and front section seating, priced at £15. To book, call in at reception or telephone 0121 552 2882.

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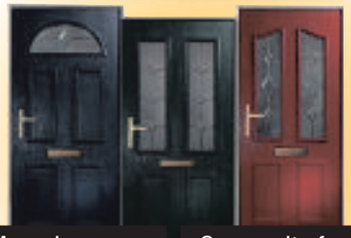

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Changing decades go on show at exhibition

A UNIQUE exhibition of photographs showing Sandwell life from the 1970s to 1990s goes on display at Sandwell Arts Café next month

There are a series of events also planned to mark the launch of the archive.

'Unseen Sandwell', photographs from the Jubilee Arts Archive 1974-94, gives a remarkable insight into the borough's history, providing a record of local people and places at a time of political, cultural and social change.

Artists from Laundry have been working with Sandwell Council's Heritage and Archive Service and local community to preserve and share the collection of 20,000 images.

Laundry arts association was awarded £42,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards the 'Unseen Sandwell' project.

Inspired

The exhibition will run at Sandwell Arts Café, Central Sixth campus (formerly The Public building), West Bromwich, from 16 April to 27 May, Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

Admission is free.

A website of the archive – www.jubileeartsarchive.com – will go live during the launch event from 6pm to 8pm on Thursday 16 April in the Arts Café.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Admission is free.

Councillor Steve Trow, one of the founder members of Jubilee Theatre and Community Arts Company in 1974, said: "It really doesn't feel like 40 years ago that we first set up Jubilee Arts.

"This exhibition and website will include hundreds of photographs capturing the tremendous spirit and creative energy of the many local groups and communities we worked with over those early years.

"All across the new borough of Sandwell, there were community festivals, massive summer play schemes, street parties and children's parades, pub shows and theatre performances, tours of old people's clubs, tenants' campaigns, murals, oral history books, exhibitions, videos and photography projects.

"In the 1970s times were tough, rather like today.

"I hope the Jubilee archive will be a revelation to today's young people, showing just how creative and community-spirited their parents and grandparents were when they were young. Forty years on, that same community spirit is needed more than ever."

In 1974, in West Bromwich, a group of young graduates founded Jubilee Theatre and Community Arts Company.

Over the next 20 years they raised over 2 million pounds for local arts and community activity, working with 850 different groups, reaching over 200,000 people.

Steve Trow, of Jubilee Arts, and Brendan Jackson, from Laundry, at the venue

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Next phase of homes at Mason site nearly done

WORK on the latest stage of a multi-million pound housing estate in Smethwick is nearing completion with a naming ceremony led by nearby schoolchildren.

Contractors have been putting the finishing touches to the apartments now known as Mason House in a nod to a well known Smethwick company.

By Andrew Turton

The name is taken from soft drinks manufacturer T. Mason & Sons Ltd started by Titus Mason, who in 1895 sold drinks in a Cape Hill off licence.

Pupils from nearby St Phillip's Catholic Primary School visited the site to meet staff and officially name the new residence.

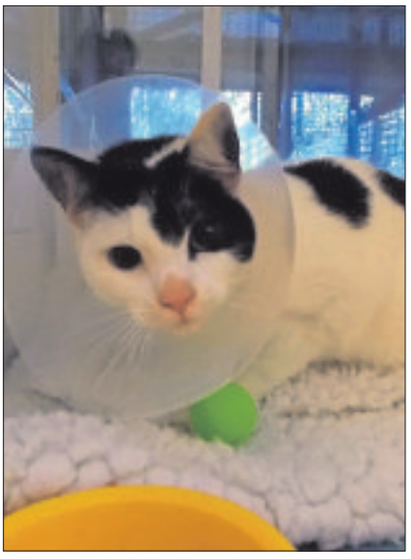
Mason House is an block, in Messenger Road, with six apartments and is part of 81 affordable rental homes the housing company Stonewater is creating. The scheme is part of a £25 million pound regeneration project on four sites also including The Precinct, Unett Street and The Crofts, which will bring more than 220 homes to the area.

The sites previously housed a number of multi-storey blocks of council-owned flats. Sandwell Council kickstarted the project by providing the land for development and obtaining funding support from the Homes and Communities Agency before partnering with Stonewater. The will be a range of two-bedroom flats, two-bedroom bungalows and two, three and four-bedroom homes created in the project in the so called Windmill Eye area.

Stone2water board member, Anne Dokov, said: "We're delighted to be supporting the council in the provision of these urgently needed affordable homes."

Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper, added: "This is one of a number regeneration projects bringing new life to this part of Smethwick."

Doner fret about cat, she's getting better



The recovering Bella who swallowed part of a kebab stick, at Cats Protection's Birmingham Adoption Centre

A YOUNG cat had a lucky escape after she swallowed a three-inch long kebab stick. The discovery was made when 18-month-old Bella, underwent a routine spray procedure at Cats Protection's Birmingham Adoption Centre.

While Bella, who is a rescued stray, was under anaesthetic, the vet noticed an unusual object in her stomach.

Further surgery revealed a very sharp, flexible stick – three inches long – was lodged in the black and white cat's colon. The vet said that if the stick, believed to be from a kebab, had encroached much further down Bella's intestines, then she may have died.

Bryan Cross, who works full time as a cat care assistant, said: "Little Bella came in to the charity as a stray at the beginning of the month. She is a fairly young cat, around 18 months old." Anyone interested in adopting Bella, can contact the centre in Packhorse Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham, on 01564 822020. Further information is available at www.birmingham.cats.org.uk

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Shelsley Avenue, @ **7.00pm**
Contact Lorraine 07807 355812
OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Kerrie 07923 129816
TUESDAY
OLDBURY
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Warley Road, Rood End @ **9.30am**
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West Bromwich Community Centre,
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Contact Jodie 07886 426429
WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Leisure Centre,
Moor Street, @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Pippa 07816 900149
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Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact (Miss) Vinny 07412 074954
TIPTON
Tipton Christian Church
Waterloo Street, **5.00pm and 7.00pm**
Contact Lisa 07514 607650
OLDBURY
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@ **6.00pm & 7.15pm**
Contact Ann 07815 643963
OLDBURY
Warley Baptist Church,
Castle Road East, @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Jane 07870 421423
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Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ **9.30am and 11.30am**
Contact Jackie 07973 927364
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SMETHWICK
Dorothy Parkes Centre,
Church Road, **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Melisia 07935 447265
WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ **9.30AM**
Contact (Miss) Vinny 07412 074954
WEDNESBURY
St Barts Church Hall
Bttm Church Hill @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Jenny 0121 556 5909
WEDNESBURY
St Luke's Church, Elwell Street,
Mesty Croft, **7.00pm**
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Ladywood Comm & Health Centre
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Blackheath Central Meth Church,
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Stone Cross Library,
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Contact Carole 07854 413929
FRIDAY
SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
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Ex-miners mark closure milestone at Hamstead

FOR centuries, coal mines were at the heart of life in the Black Country, providing power for the area's industries and work for thousands of labourers.

And one mine in particular, at Great Barr, played a big role not just in its community, but on a wider scale, attracting workers from as far afield as eastern Europe after the Second World War, as well as miners from other parts of the UK.

Now the Hamstead Colliery Miners Memorial Trust is seeking to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the pit's closure – and is inviting the public to suggest ideas for a suitable way to remember the colliery. The mine closed for good on March 26, 1965.

Tony Ward, the trust's chairman, said an official report stated there were problems with new machinery introduced at the site, which cut the coal horizontally, while the coal in the mine was at an angle.

The coal mined at the site also contained a lot of other minerals and had to be sorted by the workers by hand, an expensive process, which meant it was more cost effective to close the mine altogether.

Hamstead Colliery occupied a 16-acre site on Hamstead Road, with the entrance and main mine shaft opposite what is now the Esso service station and where the shower and washrooms for the miners used to be.

The mine, which went down three quarters of a mile beneath the surface, first became operational in 1880.

Up to 800 people worked down the mine at any one time. It was one of the deepest in Europe and attracted workers from Durham during the 1960s after the mines in the north east had closed down.

From left, Vlade Novakovie, Tony Ward, Tony Fowler and Bernard Leach

Workers also came from Yugoslavia, Italy, Poland, Wales and Bulgaria, with many having served in the British Army during the war.

One of those, Vlade Novakovic, who comes from the former Yugoslavia, was present for the launch of the commemoration consultation earlier this month at the colliery memorial in Hamstead Road.

The memorial was built to remember the Hamstead Colliery disaster in 1908, in which 25 miners and a rescue worker died in an underground fire.

Mr Novakovic, who lives in Tanhouse Avenue, Great Barr, worked in a number of roles at the mine for a total of 17 years.

He said: "It holds big memories for me. It was very good pay and the finest coal in the country. It was a high coal seam." He was joined at the launch by Hamstead Road resident Bernard Leach, another former miner, Mr Ward and his fellow trust representative Tony Fowler."

To contact the trust, visit www.miners.b43.co.uk

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Work on resort to be completed by summer

WORK at a £150 million shopping outlet and resort destination is steaming ahead.

The Resorts World project, being built on the NEC campus near Birmingham, will feature everything from discount brand-name stores to a hotel and spa.

Bosses at Genting UK, which is building the project opposite the Genting Arena, which it sponsors, said the project is on track for completion by summer. Although there is some scaffolding still visible, the impressive glass fronting along the front of the building is complete, with integral structural work now complete.

Inside, the building is now water-tight, with workers focusing on areas such as the four-star hotel rooms and shop spaces on the ground floor.

The five double-storey building will feature 50 discount outlet brands, such as Nike, 12 restaurants, with Pizza Express and TGI Fridays already signed on, five bars, a late night lounge and nightclub, an Asian themed spa as well as a four-star boutique hotel.

There is also a casino, a futuristic conference centre and a purpose-built IMAX cinema with 11 screens.

Barry Clemo, resorts operations director, said the project will be a huge boost for Birmingham.

He said: "Resorts World is a leisure and entertainment hospitality brand, and we have eight other destinations throughout the world including Singapore, Malaysia, New York and one still to be completed in Las Vegas.

"The other resorts are bigger but they do have the space, what we have tried to achieve here is bring the essence of what Resorts World is all about but do it in a way that fits on the campus."

Mr Clemo, who has worked at Genting UK for four years, said the building is unique in that although there are other places like it, none of them combine all of its working parts under one roof.

With structural work complete, a major fit-out has begun, with main sub-contractors Galliford Try continuing work on several parts of the huge resort and other sections, such as the IMAX cinema, being handed off to other contractors.

Operations director, Barry Clemo

The newly-installed escalators

The sports bar area taking shape

The presidential suite in the hotel

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Key area of activity/sectors: Windows and conservatory manufacturers and installers

More City Link staff join up for legal fight

MORE former staff of failed delivery firm City Link have joined a group action to claim extra pay.

Employment lawyers JMW Solicitors in Manchester have lodged the claim for compensation, on behalf of 303 of the 2,500 who lost their jobs, with Manchester Employment Tribunal.

The company was placed into administration on Christmas Eve and a joint report from MPs on the Business and Scottish Affairs select committees says the collapse has exposed how company insolvencies do not offer enough protection to workers.

They have said the system was too heavily skewed in favour of investors and the taxpayer, calling for the balance to be shifted. JMW said that the claim now involved 12 who used to work at its depot in Leabrook Road North, Wednesbury.

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey, who is chairman of the Business Committee, said: "The balance needs to be shifted so that our insolvency system is no longer skewed in favour of investors and directors." The report into the closure of the company said that under current rules, it was in the financial interest of a company to break the law and ignore the statutory redundancy consultation period.

FOCUS ON WEDNESBURY

Brakes are off as vehicle repair company expands

A SIX-FIGURE investment has seen vehicle repair specialist DJ Willis & Sons open a new site in Wednesbury.

Founded in 1992, the family-owned business services private and commercial fleets across the West Midlands, also acting as a major maintenance and breakdown support provider to West Midlands Special Needs Transport Ltd.

BY SIMON PENFOLD

The firm currently operates out of two Greater Birmingham depots in Nechells and Aston.

DJ Willis & Sons have now set up a third site, extending the business' reach in response to customer feedback, with owner David Willis and wife Christine having successfully secured a six-figure finance package through NatWest.

The investment has seen DJ Willis & Sons purchase new equipment and establish a workshop, based on Weston Way Industrial Estate, Wednesbury.

Two new jobs have also been created, adding to an existing headcount of eight.

David Willis said: "As our customer base has grown year on year so have we. Opening a third site means we can repair even more vehicles, giving our customers a better service, with the added space and capacity to cater for larger vehicles like buses.

"Thanks to NatWest, who've backed us since day one, we've been able to buy the equipment and stock we needed to get the new workshop up and running.

"We've also had great support from RBS Invoice Finance over the years. Without the bank's guidance and investment over the years we'd probably just have the one site."

Gemma Hunt, relationship manager for NatWest, added: "We're proud to have been able to support our long-standing customer in opening this new depot. It's a really important moment in DJ Willis & Sons' history and we look forward to supporting them."

Rotary club president Maurice Ward with the eggs being given to Tracey Smith

Egged on to donate chocolates

ROTARIANS have helped put a smile on the faces of young carers in Sandwell with a presentation of Easter eggs.

More than 450 young people are supported by Sandwell Young Carers – whether through a trip out or respite for a few hours a week.

And the organisation, which is marking its 20th year, has once again been supported thanks to the Rotary Club of Wednesbury.

Rotarians worked with the Morrisons store in Wednesbury, which donated the chocolate eggs for the youngsters.

Sandwell Young Carers chief executive Tracey Smith said the eggs would be given to young people attending an information event keeping them informed with the support that the organisation offers.

Deadline looms for big awards

PEOPLE don't have much time left to nominate their unsung heroes for this year's Wednesbury Community Awards. Community champions will be honoured at an awards ceremony on April 23.

Nominations have to be in by Good Friday.

Groups and individuals can be nominated in certain categories.

These including improving the environment, bringing communities together, and working with adults and older people.

There will also be an award given to the 'Wednesbury Star' to recognise an outstanding contribution made to the town over many years. To download a nomination form visit www.sandwell.gov.uk or request a form by emailing louise_andrewsgee@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 5040.

£1,130 for good cause

A RESTAURANT raised £1,130 for a children's hospice with a charity evening for its diners.

Suki's bar and Indian restaurant in Walsall Road, Darlaston, hosted the event in aid of Acorns. Almost 100 people enjoyed a curry buffet and entertainment, and a talk from the charity's team about the work done by Acorns. There was also a raffle.

Couple renew wedding vows to celebrate 60th

A COUPLE who spent more than 30 years of their lives managing pubs around the Midlands, celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss by renewing their wedding vows in front of family and friends.

Nellie and Harold Steadman, of High Street, Brownhills, have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

The couple met at a dance at the old Bloxwich baths and were engaged a year later. They married at Blakenall Heath Christ Church and went on honeymoon to Blackpool.

The pair celebrated their landmark anniversary with a party at Knaves Court in Brownhills last Thursday, where they renewed their wedding vows in a special ceremony.

Mrs Steadman, aged 83, said: "Everyone said it was a beautiful service. We had a little buffet and it was really nice.

Together

"I first met Harold when he asked me to dance. There used to be dances at the Bloxwich baths on a Saturday night and my friend met Harold's friend. Then we ended up getting together. We were engaged a year after we met."

Mrs Steadman and her 84-year-old husband, who grew up in Bloxwich, became the landlord and landlady of several pubs around the Midlands.

Before retiring from the pub trade in 1992, they managed The Bridgewater in Bloxwich for around nine years. They had previously managed The Wheatsheaf in Great Wyrley and The Crown in Walsall.

Mrs Steadman, who grew up in Blakenall, added: "We had lovely customers. I enjoyed every minute of it.

"It's been a really happy, loving marriage. We have done everything together. We've never stopped each other from doing anything and we've always enjoyed our holidays together.

"We've travelled all over the world and had a really good life."

Family and friends toast Nellie and Harold Steadman, from Brownhills

Council tax move concern

DISABLED people have been telling of their fears after support for 20,000 people's council tax bills was cut.

Walsall Council is going to require people to pay more if they were previously in receipt of council tax benefit as it deals with £29 million worth of savings. Andy Brown, from the Black Country branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, said people were worried.

"I've had calls from people with MS who have been sent their bills for the coming year. Some have asked about our grant facility because they do not know how they are going to pay.

"One person told me they would have to find an extra £11 a month. Another has to pay an extra £15 a month. That is a lot of money when you cannot work. This is just from people with MS, let alone people with other disabilities.

"These are people who cannot work because of their illness. And now they are being penalised for it."

Walsall Council has approved plans for council tax to rise by 1.99 per cent, with support for 20,000 of the borough's most needy residents reduced by 25 per cent.

A total of 12 children's centres will close as £4.4 million is wiped from the children's services budget and up to 200 council jobs will go, as well as an unspecified number of senior managerial positions.

Walsall Museum will still close in a bid to save £70,000.

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CALL 111 when it's less urgent than 999

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Parsonage Street GP Practice and Walk-in Centre, Parsonage Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 4DL. 8.00 am – 8.00 pm

5 GP
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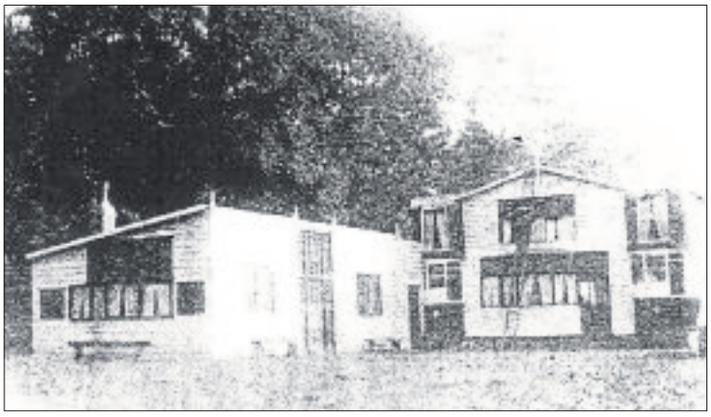
Ironbridge undertaker Bill Williams with the tramcar building in 1974

One of the trams is lifted clear



The trams are part of the Coalbrookdale property on the right

Coffin shop tramcars have new lease of life at Black Country museum

IT'S a tram-endous story with a happy ending. When two Wolverhampton trams were taken out of service in the 1920s they were snapped up and brought to the Ironbridge Gorge to be incorporated into a house which stood for many years.

And when the time came in 1976 to demolish that house in Coalbrookdale, the trams were both salvaged to be used as museum pieces.

One of them was restored to be run on tracks taking visitors around the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, where it remains an exhibit today and will run again soon.

The property mentioned had once been the home of Bill Williams.

Dave Bentley of Admaston whose wife is related to the Williams family. said: "Mrs Williams was my mother-in-law's auntie. Bill Williams was the undertaker down the bottom of Ironbridge. The trams were sent to the Black Country Museum and done up," he said.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Toby Neal

Crane

And Dave was able to give the date that the trams were removed – June 23, 1976.

The Shropshire Star reported on that day: "Overhead wires had to be taken down in Coalbrookdale today to allow a massive lifting operation to get under way. The telephone wire was taken down so that a mobile crane could lift two old trams which have been used as an undertaker's home and coffin shop since 1925. The 26ft long trams – which originally weighed about 13 tons each – were being lifted on to two low loaders for transport to the Black Country Museum storage building at Pensnett trading estate. There they will be made into a single machine to run on tracks at the museum site in Dudley.

"The trams were being removed from Mr Bill Williams' premises. His father-in-law, Mr Edwin Brown, bought them when they went out of service after 20 years' use, and built a house using them as gable ends. Mr Williams later used the building as a coffin shop."

Laura Wakelin of the Black Country Living Museum added: "Both tramcars were used as public trams on the Penn Fields route, Wolverhampton, during the few years preceding the First World War.

"Once withdrawn from service they were sold to Mr Edwin Brown of Ironbridge and eventually used to form part of his undertaker's home and coffin shop in 1925.

"Both trams came to the museum in 1976. Tram 49 was subsequently restored with a lot of funding from the Science Museum, London. Tram 49 is on display in the museum's Albion Tram Depot which is open to the public on every museum opening day.

"Tram 49 has run on the museum's tram tracks,and it will continue to do so as soon as some necessary essential maintenance has been carried out on the tracks.

"Unfortunately upon arriving at the museum tram 47 was in a state of disrepair and the decision was taken that it would be more useful to sacrifice it for spares."

It is not the only time the museum has received trams in this way. In 1984 two old trams which were used as part of a bungalow in County Lane, Codsall Wood, were donated to the museum.

Tram 49 – restored and gleaming at the museum

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Students awarded for achievements

Bottom, from left, pupils, Leanne Noctor and Drew Werhun. Back, Steve Dale, Kim Paskin, and Maurice Ward

THREE secondary school students were given awards for their achievements at a special ceremony.

Leanne Noctor, aged 18, Anjuma Begum, 19, and Drew Werhun, 12, were all awarded the Joe Clews award by the Rotary Club of Wednesbury group.

The award is given to three students from local secondary schools each year by the club.

Steve Dale, junior vice president of the Rotary Club, said: "We work in partnership with Wodensborough, Stuart Bathurst and Wood Green schools and each year three students are nominated by staff to receive the award." The award is named after a former member of the Wednesbury Rotarians. The presentation event took place at the group's headquarters at the Masonic Hall on Russell Street.

Mr Dale, aged 68, of Hydes Road, Wednesbury, said the award did not just focus on academic achievements.

"The award honours the success of each student, not just at school, but for positive things they have done for the community," Mr Dale said.

Bestiality porn man approached passengers

A MAN who was spotted touching women at New Street Station was also found to be in possession of dozens of sickening bestiality images when police searched his home.

Police put out a media appeal to trace Robert White after he was filmed on CCTV approaching women at the station in Birmingham city centre on October 31, 2013.

By Peter Madeley

The 46-year-old handed himself in after seeing the appeal on Facebook, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. When police searched his home in Central Drive, Coseley, they seized more than 100 DVDs and his computer hard drive.

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, said that 23 of the DVDs were found to contain moving and still images of horses and dogs being abused by adults. His hard drive also contained 26 clips of a pornographic version of children's TV favourite Inspector Gadget, which also featured cartoon depictions of bestiality.

The court was told that 18 of the images taken from the hard drive and 100 images from the DVDs fell into the most extreme category of pornography.

Mr David Bratt, defending, told the court that White's behaviour had caused him 'huge embarrassment and humiliation'.

No charges have ever been brought against White for his behaviour at the train station. He pleaded guilty to four counts of possessing extreme pornographic images and was placed under a supervision order for 36 months. He was also put on an electronically monitored curfew for three months and disqualified from working with children. White was also made the subject of a 10-year sexual harm prevention order.

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Carters Lane Baptist Church
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Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Course title Venue	Start	Day	Time	Cost	Weeks
French - Beginners Leasowes	21/4/15	Tues	19.00 - 21.00	£30.00	5
Guitar - 'Learn from the Legends' Leasowes	21/4/15	Tues	19.00 - 21.00	£60.00	10
Jewellery Making - All levels Leasowes	22/4/15	Wed	18.00 - 20.00	£30.00	5
Photography - Digital - All levels Leasowes	14/4/15	Tues	19.00 - 21.00	£30.00	5
Choral Singing Greenhill Centre	20/4/15	Mon	18.30 - 20.00	£22.50	5
Water Colour Painting - All levels Greenhill Centre	15/4/15	Wed	19.00 - 21.00	£60.00	10
Water Colour Painting - Intermediate Greenhill Centre	17/4/15	Fri	14.00 - 17.00	£90.00	10
ESOL Umar Mosque & CC	14/4/15	Tues	10.00 - 12.00	Call	6
Yoga - Mixed abilities Dudley Wood NLC	14/4/15	Tues	19.00 - 20.00	£30.00	10
Yoga - mixed abilities Dudley Wood NLC	14/4/15	Tues	17.30 - 18.30	£30.00	10
Tap Dance Dudley Wood NLC	23/4/15	Thurs	10.30 - 11.30	£12.00	4
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Waiting to see you – Igglepiggle and friends in the forest

Greetings from Igglepiggle

COMPETITION

Igglepiggle is just the ticket for youngsters

THE summer classic for children, In The Night Garden Live, will be delighting youngsters and their parents at Birmingham's Canon Hill Park from July 11-25, as part of a UK tour.

Nine out of 10 parents give the staged event of the BAFTA award-winning CBeebies children's TV show five out of five stars, according to audience surveys and parents' reviews on NightGardenLive.com.

And you could be at this amazing musical theatre experience for all the family. The organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offers readers the chance to win three Meet the Cast and Characters family tickets and three runner-up show-only family tickets (Family ticket is for four people, minimum one adult).

Children's favourite CBeebies' stars, Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends, are all brought beautifully to life on stage using full-size costumes, magical puppets, enchanting music and breathtaking projections.

The show takes place in its own all-weather, purpose-built inflatable showdome with many family-friendly facilities. This site-specific structure is a huge hit with children and parents and its immersive theatrical experience makes audiences feel they are actually entering the magical world of the TV show In the Night Garden.

Andrew Collier, Creative Director of Minor Entertainment said: "Parents tell us that children as young as a few months old engage with the live show, and the looks on the faces of the children and parents in the audiences are absolutely amazing."

In the Night Garden... Live

HOW TO ENTER

For a chance to win simply answer the question below

What colour is Igglepiggle's blanket?
A: Red B: Yellow C: Green

Send your entry on a postcard with your full address, phone number and email address to Igglepiggle Competition, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, April 9.

Tickets are subject to availability. The tickets are non-transferable. No cash alternatives, accommodation or travel are provided.

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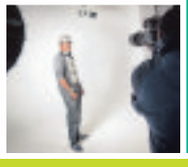

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Steve fired up for job after 40 years on same watch

NOT many people spend 40 years working in the same trade these days, but firefighter Steve Newman has not just been in the service for that time, he has also been part of the same watch.

The 61-year-old has been an integral part of white watch at Smethwick fire station since March 24, 1975, just 12 weeks after he completed his training.

And the grandfather said he still enjoyed his work, even though he is set to retire soon, adding he did not think there would be many firefighters around the country who were still with the same watch after 40 years. He said: "It is an achievement, but it is just one of those things. I just do my job and my time has built up. I don't dislike anything about the job.

"I love the camaraderie with the other guys and being part of the fire service is a great thing because it has a real family feel to it. It is like a big family."

Incident

He started in the fire service just nine days after the IRA Birmingham pub bombings and has attended some major incidents, including a massive blaze at Lowes Timber Yard in Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath, while he has also attended fatal house fires and car crashes. However, the father-of-two, who lives in Alrewas, said that he was glad he never had to attend an incident where a child had died – adding by quirk of fate those calls had been dealt with by his colleagues.

The biggest change in his time had been in the nature of the job.

He said when he first joined crews could be called out to a broader variety of incidents, while firefighters were now expected to do more work with schools, giving talks. The equipment has also improved, he said, with the specialist cutting gear being more effective at its job.

Smethwick firefighter Steve Newman, 61, who has worked for four decades with the same watch

Medic leading the way in new course

A PARAMEDIC from the Black Country has become one of the first in the UK to graduate from a new programme which aims to produce skilled NHS leaders.

Joshua Miller graduated from the NHS Leadership Academy's Mary Seacole Programme a ceremony held in Birmingham Council House.

The 12-month postgraduate programme is delivered by the Open University Business School and is for people who are new in a leadership position or are aspiring to be a leader in the future.

It was set up in the wake of the Francis Report into the Mid Staffordshire Trust scandal. Mr Miller, who lives in Kingswinford and works as a community paramedic in Oldbury, said: "The Mary Seacole Programme aims to develop first-line leaders who recognise that targets are useful in benchmarking performance, but that information about a service can come from a range of sources, of which the most important are probably the views of patients and staff at its heart."

Mary Seacole was a Jamaican woman who overcame racial and sexual discrimination to become a pioneer of modern nursing.

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Address .....

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Rules: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 10th April 2015. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

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Longleat Safari and Adventure Park

Pick of the week

Two days departing June 27

PRICE FROM £129

Experience incredibly close encounters with some of the fiercest, cutest and magnificent animals from around the world and visit the fabulous Longleat Safari and Adventure Park.

Travel to the Georgian city of Bath, attractively located astride the River Avon, and enjoy some free time to explore. The city offers a wealth of history to discover, the most famous attraction being the Roman Baths. There are plenty of bars and restaurants to suit all tastes and budgets, or perhaps choose to browse the abundance of stores.

Longleat Safari and Adventure Park is home to the 7th Marquess of Bath and includes entrance to over 20 attractions. The highlight of the day has to be the Safari Park, which was the first drive-through park outside Africa. Here visitors will find fascinating animals including lions, tigers, rhinos and giraffes, and in the East African reserve, there is the chance to spy on zebras, and walk amongst ring tailed lemurs and wallabies.

Other popular attractions within Longleat include the Jungle Cruise, that sails across the lake towards Gorilla Island, and the Jungle Express Railway. There is also the chance to hand feed lorikeets and walk through a meerkat enclosure as well as the opportunity to see the world's fastest land animal, the cheetah.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Day ticket to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park
- Visit to Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability -supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Glorious Goodwood

Two days departing August 1

PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Lennox Enclosure at Goodwood Racecourse
- Visit to Windsor
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Sinatra
The Man and his Music at the London Palladium

Two days departing August 8

PRICE FROM £149.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation at a four-star outer London area hotel
- Ticket for the upper circle (value £33.25, *ticket upgrades offered)* to see the matinee performance of 'Sinatra' - The Man and his music' at the London Palladium
- Free time in London
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

London Summer Days

Five days departing August 17

PRICE FROM £399.95

- Return coach travel
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation at the four-star Tower Guoman hotel
- Excursion to Windsor
- Optional excursion to Hampton Court Palace and Richmond *(£17 extra per person)*
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Rail and Steam

Four days departing August 21

PRICE FROM £299

- Return coach travel
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Two three course evening meals
- Ticket to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Return journey on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
- Visits to Edinburgh, Aberfoyle and Gretna Green
- Circular cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Secret Gardens of the Lake District

Four days departing June 26

PRICE FROM £259

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Brockhole gardens, Grasmere and Holehird gardens
- Entrance to Windy Hall gardens
- Cruise on Coniston on Steam Yacht Gondola
- Entrance to Brantwood House and gardens
- Entrance to the gardens at Levens Hall
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Afternoon Tea at the Houses of Parliament

Four days departing June 5, August 14 and September 18

PRICE FROM £299

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Afternoon tea in the Terrace Pavilion of the House of Commoms
- Guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Visit to St Albans
- Visits to Kenwood House and Kensington Palace
- Visit to the Royal Air Force museum London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Bletchley Park – The Secrets of War

Two days departing May 23 and October 3

PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Oxford
- Visit to Bletchley Park
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

London Theatre Showstopper Weekend by Rail

Three days departures most Fridays

PRICE FROM £229.95

- Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star central London hotels
- Top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance of a West End show of your choice
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

The Amalfi Coast

Eight days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £699

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Drinks with dinner, free tea and biscuits daily
- Full day visit to Sorrento including a drive along the Amalfi Coast
- Full day visit to Paestum and Salerno
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Loire Valley and Monet's Garden

Six days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £569

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connections to London
- Five nights bed and breakfast accommodation plus three dinners
- Visit Tours, Amboise and Leonardo da Vinci's house
- Visit to Chartres
- Visit Claude Monet's home and garden
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Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

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Six days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £799

- Return flights
- Five nights bed and breakfast four-star accommodation
- Tours of Stockholm and Copenhagen
- Visits to Roskilde Viking museum and Cathedral
- Visit to Fredericksborg Slot
- Tour of Sweden's Royal Palace
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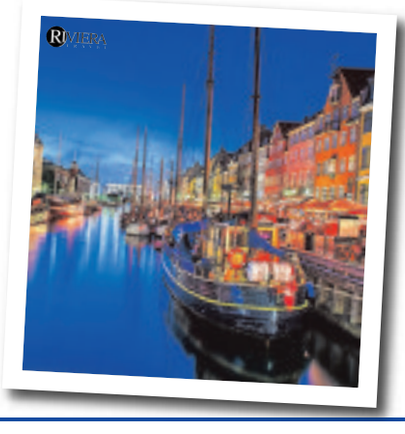
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



fast theticket

Mind Games

Derren Brown
– Page 27

All aboard

The Ghost Train is on its way – Page 27

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For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, April 2, 2015

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Nicki Minaj

Friday, 7.30pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
Rap's reigning queen brings The Pinkprint Tour to Birmingham on Friday. The tour also features Grammy Award-nominated R&B superstar Trey Songz.
Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

The Chuckles Of Oz

Saturday, 2pm & 5pm
Grand Theatre, W'ton
Take a glimpse into The Emerald City in a show packed with all the ingredients of a family show which will include audience participation and laugh-out-loud comedy.
Visit **www.thegrandtheatre.co.uk**

Lee Nelson

Saturday – Stafford Gatehouse
Sunday – Wulfrun, W'ton
Lee Nelson is back with a brand new suit and a new stand-up show full of fresh gags. He appears in Stafford on Saturday and will be in Wolverhampton on Sunday.
Visit venue websites

Gadget Show Live

Tuesday - April 12, from 9am
NEC, B'ham
The Gadget Show Live is returning to the NEC Birmingham for its 7th year. The Gadget Show brings the very best and very latest tech under one roof for you to try and buy.
Visit **www.thenec.co.uk**

POP & ROCK

Nicki Minaj
Friday at 7.30pm,
£45.14 - £56.39
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham,
B1 2PZ. Call 0121 780 4141

ELO Again
Friday at 7.30pm, £12 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Paul Parker & Friends
Saturday at 7.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

We Will Rock Yow
Friday at 8pm, £3
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Limehouse Lizzy
Sun at 8pm, £12
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Dirty DC
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£9 - £13
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Definitely Might Be
Sun at 7.30pm, 7.30pm,
£8 - £11.25
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Talon – Best Of Eagles
Thu at 7.30pm,
£14.50 - £24.25
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

The Solid Silver 60s Show
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£24.50 - £29
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Buddy and the Illegal Crickets
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£15 - £16
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Of Mice & Men
Friday at 6pm, £18.56
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Edgar Broughton
Wed at 7.30pm, £13 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Ian Parker & his band
Thu at 7.30pm,
£12.50 - £14.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Sleeping With Sirens & Pierce The Veil
Wed at 6pm, £22.50
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Miles Hunt Book Reading
Sun at 8pm, £16.50
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552106

Box Of Light
Sun at 7pm, £7.05
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

JAZZ & BLUES

Rattlesnake Jake
Friday at 8pm - 2am, £5
Moochers, Stourbridge,
DY8 1PH.
Call 01384 671141

The Harp Live Jazz (April)
Sun at 12.30pm, Tue at 8.30pm,
Free
The Harp Hotel, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, WV7 3JF.
Call 01902 374381

RNB & SOUL

An Evening with The Atlantic Players
Friday at 8pm, £8.00 Adv
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Irish Session
Wed at 8pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Brewood Acoustic Club Singers' Night
Thu at 8pm, £2(£1 singers)
Brewood Cricket Club,
ST19 9HX.
Call 01902 850422

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
Wed at 7.45pm, £2
Pigot Arms, Pattingham,
Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
Call 01902 700207

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

G4
Sun at 7.30pm, £29
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Good Friday Bach St Matthew Passion
Friday at 2pm, £9.50 - £40
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

CBeebies Live!
Tue at 1.30pm, 4.45pm,
£19.18 - £33.74
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Derren Brown
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 7.30pm,
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm,
£39.90
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Tall Stories: The Snail and the Whale
Thu at 1.30pm, 4.30pm,
£8 - £28
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Chuckles of Oz
Saturday at 2pm, 5pm,
£12.75 - £16.90
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Shrek the Musical
Friday, Saturday, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Sun at 1pm, 5pm,
Saturday at 2.30pm,
£18.50 - £45
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Rent
Friday at 7.30pm, £10
Wolverhampton Grammar School, V3 9RB.
Call 01902 421326

David Lacey
Friday at 7.30pm, £10 - £14
Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

The Business of Murder..
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm,
Saturday at 2.30pm,
£11 - £25
Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Beautiful Thing
Friday, Saturday, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.45pm, Friday, Saturday at 2.30pm, £30
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

The Basil Brush Show
Friday at 11am, 2.30pm,
£12 - £45
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

And This Is My Friend Mr Laurel
Thu at 2.30pm, £11 - £25
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

DogFight
Thu at 7.30pm, £12.50
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

The Ghost Train
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £12 - £25.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Saltley Stories
Mon at 6pm,
The Drum, Aston on Carrant,
Birmingham, B6 4UU.
Call 0121 333 2400

COMEDY

Lee Nelson
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£20 - £22
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Sun at 7pm, £20 - £22
The Wulfrun,
Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH.
Call 01902 552106

Patrick Monahan
Thu at 7.30pm, £14
The Old Joint Stock,
Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

Comedy Carousel
Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Andrew Lawrence
Thu at 7pm, £12 - £15.40
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552106

A Black Country Night Out
Wed at 7.30pm, £18
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Fitz of Laughter
Friday at 7.30pm, £5
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

TALKS

Zulu Dawn
Wed at 4.30pm - 5.30pm,
Free
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

ART EXHIBITIONS

Wolverhampton: New Art West Midlands
Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

The Current Situation
Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Life on the Cut
Friday, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Saturday at 10am - 4pm,
Free
Walsall Museum,WS1 1TR.
Call 01922 653116

Watercolour Society Exhibition
Friday, Saturday, Sun, Mon,
Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 4pm,
Free
Weston Park, Telford,
TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Enjoy Art Exhibition Series
Friday, Saturday, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am, Free
The Shugborough Estate,
Stafford, ST17 0XB.
Call 01889 881388

OTHER EVENTS

Disney On Ice presents
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 3pm,
7pm, Saturday, Sun at 11am,
£19.18 - £46.62
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Gadget Show Live
Tue, Wed, Thu at 9am,
£22.99 - £31.99
National Exhibition Centre,
Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Transport Show
Sun, Mon at 10.30am - 5pm,
£3 - £9
Weston Park,
Weston-under-Lizard, Telford,
TF11 8LE. Call 01952 852100

EASTER HOLIDAY EVENTS

Easter Rockschool
Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 3pm,
£60
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Easter Family Fun Day
Mon at 10.30am - 4pm, Free
Walsall Leather Museum, WS2
8EQ. Call 01922 721153

Easter Eggventures
Friday at 10am - 5pm,
Saturday, Sun at 2pm - 5pm,
£1.50 - £3.50
Selly Manor Museum,
Birmingham, B30 1UB.
Call 0121 472 0199

Make a Felted Egg
Tue at 11am - 12.30pm, 1.30pm - 3pm, £3
Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, WV14 7LU.
Call 01902 552507

Make a Spring Posey
Thu at 11am - 12.30pm, 1.30pm - 3pm, £3
Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, WV14 7LU.
Call 01902 552507

Stagecoach Easter Workshop
Tue, Wed, Thu at 9.30am - 4pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Cadbury Easter Egg Trail
Saturday, Sun, Mon at 11am - 4pm, £2.50
Moseley Old Hall,
Featherstone, Wolverhampton,
WV10 7HY.
Call 01902 782808

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Master of illusion prays for a Miracle

'Magic is based in dishonesty. So you have to work harder to make it have artistic merit or relevance,' says Derren Brown

MIND-BENDING master of illusion Derren Brown is bringing his latest show, Miracle, to the West Midlands to amaze and baffle audiences.

Previous shows Svengali and Infamous have left packed venues stunned. This will be his seventh production since 2003 but the award-winning showman, who uses psychology to create the illusion of supernatural powers, is giving few clues on what to expect this time.

"As ever, I ask people to keep the contents of the show a secret," says the two-time Olivier Award winner.

"But I can certainly say that this show has a more philosophical flavour and looks at ways of thinking that may make us happier.

"In some ways it's the boldest, most contentious show yet. But audiences are responding well to it and I just love doing it — it's quite a roller-coaster.

Having performed to one and a half million people over 13 years, Croydon-born Brown says the magic genre can continue to break boundaries.

"Magic is a very childish thing at heart: the quickest, most fraudulent route to impressing people. It's based in dishonesty. So you have to work harder to make it have artistic merit or relevance."

Miracle will be at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre until April 11.

Dare you catch the Ghost Train?

ON a dark and stormy night, when a group of passengers are stranded at a remote rural railway stop for the night, the stationmaster's chilling story of a phantom loco that is an omen of death apparently begins to come true.

Arnold Ridley's comedy thriller The Ghost Train is a British classic that is being brought to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, April 7 to 11, in a production starring actors Walsall-born Jeffrey Holland and his real life wife Judy Buxton. Ridley was inspired to write The Ghost Train after being forced to spend the night at Mangotsfield station near Bristol. But he is probably best known from his latter years when he played the bumbling Private Godfrey in the BBC comedy Dad's Army.

Suggested

The cast for this new production of his best known play will also feature some familiar faces from TV comedy, led by Jeffrey Holland, no stranger to the railway setting having starred in Oh Doctor Beeching! He is best known for the 1980s sitcoms Hi-de-Hi! and You Rang M'Lord?

Educated at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Jeffrey had no aspirations to act until a friend suggested they go to local drama group for something to do. He fell victim to the acting bug and, as a result, he joined The Minster Players Amateur Dramatic Society where, at 19, he decided it was to be an actor's life for him. He went on to formally train at The Birmingham School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art and made his professional debut in Henry Cecil's play No Fear Or Favour at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, in 1967.

Soap villain joins Grand's angry men

ONE of TV's most popular actors, Jason Merrells, will lead the cast in the upcoming production of Twelve Angry Men when it is staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in May.

The classic court drama is touring after a successful run in London's West End.

Merrells, best known for playing Emmerdale villain Declan Macey, will play juror number 8 – the role made famous by Henry Fonda in the movie version — but will only join the cast at four UK venues, including the Grand from May 18 to 23.

His start to TV success was in hit hospital drama Casualty and he went on to have leading roles in Cutting It and Waterloo Road.

Garbutt coming to play the NAC

VIN Garbutt, who is now back in full swing after a long illness, is playing at the Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton on Saturday April 18.

GARBUTT will be supported by Stourbridge blues/folkman Sunjay Brayne.

The show starts 7.30pm and tickets are £12.50 plus a 10 per cent booking fee.

The Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford welcomes Liverpudlian Gary Edward Jones on Friday April 17.

Tickets for members cost £7 and non-members pay £1 more. Shows start around 8.30pm.

Little Mo makes it to Downing Street

TEN Downing Street comes under the spotlight in Steve Thompson's hard-hitting comedy Feed The Beast at Birmingham Rep Studio Theatre from April 16 to May 2.

The latest play from the Sherlock and Doctor Who writer looks at the first 100 days of a British Prime Minster. The cast includes National Theatre actor Gerald Kyd as the PM and Kacey Ainsworth, who was Little Mo in EastEnders, as Downing Street's chief of staff.

Director Peter Rowe said: "It is rare to be offered the chance to direct a new play like Steve's that talks about issues which are so of the moment."

Monmore Green Greyhound Stadium, Sutherland Avenue, Wolverhampton WV2 2JJ
Tel: 01902 452648 www.monmoredogs.co.uk
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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, April 2, 2015

Sizzle kicks starter with chicken tikka was nicely spiced

Vegetable samosas always prove popular

Range of dishes available at Regards in Anchor Road, Aldridge

Tables all nicely laid out and service is spot on

Highest Regards as restaurant curries favour for good service

GOING for a curry has become something of a favourite pastime in Blighty. The suggestion of a night eating a spicy meat dish brings fist pumps from friends and family all over the country.

It's become as much a part of our culture as tea, football and – unfortunately – the term of endearment 'bae'.

A good curry can banish a cold; I'm not sure a doctor would prescribe one but it works. I swear.

So three of us headed out to Regards in Aldridge on one particularly cold, dank evening to stick two fingers up to the miserable weather.

We were ruddy hungry. It'd been a long day. So a curry seemed the best remedy to our grumbling bellies. We'd been before, so knew what to expect. The service, as always, was spot on from the off.

By Leigh Sanders

Coats were taken immediately. A prime seating located near a heater was offered. Drinks orders were taken without a pause.

And so we were left to peruse the menu once the pleasantries were completed. The choice here is great. There's a lot of what you'd expect – Balti dishes, bhunas, kormas, rogans. But there are also some treats too.

Choice

Regards offer a selection of combination dishes for those feeling under pressure from all the choice on offer. Adore two curries and unsure which one you want today? Have them both. This section of the menu offers up a variety of options. And if none quite suits your taste, just put a quiet request in and a combination of your choice isn't usually a problem. Regards also claim to be specialists in Tawa dishes. Either chicken, lamb or prawn, they're cooked with diced onions, green peppers and aromatic herbs and spices.

I opted for the sheek kebab to start. They were plump, juicy and full of flavour. Sometimes meat dishes like these can be a little dry, but certainly not on this occasion. Thumbs up!

It's never difficult to catch the eye of a member of staff and they attend immediately. Drinks were topped up and we were ready for the mains.

Here is where the combination dishes came into play. Chicken jalfrezi and lamb masala arrived, accompanied by pilau rice and a cheese naan.

The portions, again, were spot on. There was enough of each curry to get a real taste without pushing you over the edge. The rice was great at soaking up the sauce and the naan, a little light on cheese maybe, certainly benefitted from a variety of flavours to be dipped into.

What can also be noted here is these curries feel quite light for their food type. Sometimes Indian food can be too rich and heavy, but this is certainly not the case here. It makes a nice change.

Ideal

However, it must also be said that they're a little light on the spice. This would be the ideal place for somebody just starting out on their curry voyage; even the medium dishes are very kind to the taste buds. Pretty full we didn't feel we could manage a dessert.

It was not much of a wait for the bill – a real bugbear of ours when the opposite occurs and the polite staff more than earned their tip.

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CHOICE

Amanda Mealing

Casualty (BBC1, 9.10pm)
Connie continues to help her friend Alfred, who has motor neurone disease, and gives him special treatment. But as his condition deteriorates, she is placed in a quandary when he asks her to help him die. A former heroin addict lies about his past to protect his future wife, little realising the danger he is putting himself in, while a young woman is brought in after deliberately crashing her car to claim on the insurance. Ethan discovers that Cal stole his money, Taylor disappears and Iain applies for a new job. With a guest appearance from veteran singer and actress Anita Harris alongside Amanda Mealing, Richard Winsor, George Rainsford, William Beck, Lee Mead, Jane Hazlegrove and Michael Stevenson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.15 Film:** Rise of the Guardians. (2012) Premiere. Magical beings from folklore unite to defeat an evil spirit plotting to steal the dreams of children. Animated adventure, with the voices of Chris Pine and Alec Baldwin.
6.40 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 The Voice UK. After seven weeks of blind auditions, two battles, two knockout rounds and two live shows, the final is here – with just four contestants remaining, all eager to be crowned winner and pick up a recording contract. Who will the public choose as The Voice 2015? Presented by Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. Last in the series.
9.10 Casualty. Connie continues to help her friend Alfred, who has motor neurone disease, and gives him special treatment. But as his condition deteriorates, she is placed in a quandary when he asks her to help him die. A former heroin addict lies about his past to protect his future wife, little realising the danger he is putting himself in, while a young woman is brought in after deliberately crashing her car to claim on the insurance. Ethan discovers that Cal stole his money, Taylor disappears and Iain applies for a new job. With a guest appearance from veteran singer and actress Anita Harris.
10.00 The National Lottery Live. The all-important winning numbers are revealed.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Arsenal v Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium and Everton v Southampton at Goodison Park; National Lottery Update.
11.55 Film: Surrogates. (2009) An FBI agent in a future where people only interact through robot doubles ventures into the real world to catch a killer. Sci-fi thriller, with Bruce Willis.
1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Animal Park. (R) **7.05** The Football League Show. (R) **8.25 Film:** The Sword in the Stone. (1963) **9.40** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. (R) **10.10** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. (R) **10.40** Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments. (R) **11.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **12.00** A Taste of Britain. **12.30** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.30** The A to Z of TV Cooking. (R) **1.35** Great Directors: Talking Pictures. **2.20 Film:** Wuthering Heights. (1939) Period drama, starring Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier. **4.00** Kew on a Plate. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.30** Easter from King's.
6.45 Film: The Young Victoria. (2009) The turbulent early years of the monarch who, shortly after being crowned, became caught in a power struggle between her mother and scheming politicians Lord Melbourne and Sir Robert Peel. Meanwhile, a romance develops with her German cousin and eventual husband, Prince Albert. Historical drama, with Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend, Paul Bettany and Miranda Richardson.
8.25 Dad's Army. Pike borrows Mainwaring's new staff car to take his girlfriend to the cinema – but it breaks down, leaving the lovebirds stranded in the middle of nowhere. (R)
9.00 Monteverdi in Mantua: The Genius of the Vespers. Simon Russell Beale travels to Italy to explore the volatile relationship between the Duke of Mantua and his court composer Claudio Monteverdi during the late Italian Renaissance.
10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Suggs, Claudia O'Doherty, Jimmy Carr and Alan Davies attempt to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the theme of long-lost things.
10.45 Rik Mayall: Lord of Misrule. Simon Callow narrates a celebration of the comedian and actor's life and work, with contributions by Michael Palin, Simon Pegg, Lenny Henry, Ben Elton and Tim McInnerny. (R)
11.45 Film: A Beautiful Mind. (2001) Biopic of brilliant mathematician John Nash, whose genius was compromised by paranoid delusions and schizophrenia. Oscar-winning drama, starring Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany.
1.55 Film: Revenge of the Bridesmaids. (2010) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40 Film:** The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery. (1966) Comedy, starring Frankie Howerd. **3.30** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.00** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.00** Thunderbirds Are Go.
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 New You've Been Framed! New series. Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' home videos.
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Little Ant and Dec put England captain Wayne Rooney through his paces with their cheeky style of questioning, and Ashley Roberts challenges the hosts in the final round of Ant v Dec, as 2014 champion Dec tries to retain his title. Broadchurch actress Olivia Colman is the star guest announcer, and as usual, a member of the studio audience plays for the contents of a commercial break. Last in the series.
8.30 You're Back in the Room. Diversity pose as mannequins for the hypnotised contestants to decorate, with a general knowledge quiz, flower-arranging task and pizza-making also on the menu. Last in the series.
9.35 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host welcomes Kylie Minogue, Ethan Hawke, Bear Grylls and Clare Balding, and introduces music by Brits Critics' Choice winner James Bay. Last in the series.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.50 Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall. (2008) A jilted man takes a trip to Hawaii, only to find his ex and her new boyfriend are staying at the same resort. Romantic comedy, with Jason Segel, Kristen Bell and Russell Brand.
12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.35** Frasier. (R) **11.05** Frasier. (R) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park and Kempton Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. A week of dinner parties in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. (R) **5.15** The Simpsons. Bart catches Principal Skinner in a compromising situation. (R) **5.45** The Simpsons. Bart acquires a credit card. (R)
6.10 The Simpsons. Homer strikes up an unlikely friendship with Chief Wiggum during a stint of community service, but the honeymoon period is brought to an abrupt end during a showdown with Fat Tony. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Lakes: Walking Through History. Tony Robinson walks 50 miles from Penrith to Ambleside and on to the Irish Sea at Ravenglass, exploring how the Romans conquered the Lake District. (R)
8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. A flash flood in New Zealand that washed a dozen eels onto a street, a swarm of seemingly flying spiders in Brazil, and a strange wave that submerged an entire town in Argentina. (R)
9.00 End of the World Night. Humans started predicting the end of the world around 5,000 years ago, but while prophets have warned of impending doom, today scientists are anxious about the possibility of global Armageddon, and it's a subject that fascinates many – frequently tackled in blockbuster films. In this one-off special, some of the world's foremost academics evaluate the many threats to civilisation, and reveal how it could all end.
10.35 Film: Knowing. (2009) An astrophysicist decodes a page of numbers revealing the dates of a series of disasters and tries to prevent them happening. Mystery thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Rose Byrne.
12.55 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **1.50 Film:** French Connection II. (1975) **3.55** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.30** SpongeBob SquarePants. **11.05** Access. **11.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.00** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.05 Film:** The Devil's Brigade. (1968) **4.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
6.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. A special edition of the programme giving an insight into the world of debt collection from the perspectives of people who owe money, their creditors and those who collect the payments. There are updates on some of the stories featured in the series earlier in the year, while two new cases reveal that life-changing debt can affect anyone – no matter how wealthy they appear to be. (R)
7.15 Police Interceptors. Jim intercepts a car containing cannabis, a late-night reveller talks himself into trouble and Sgt Baxter has his work cut out when confronted by a dishonest driver. (R)
8.00 5 News Weekend.
8.05 NCIS. An investigation into a rape and murder revives harrowing memories for Ducky, who once worked on a similar case in which the killer was never captured and vowed to return. (R)
9.00 NCIS: The Port-to-Port Killer. The agents examine the death of a seaman and find themselves working alongside Barrett. Gibbs makes his displeasure about the circumstances of the case well known, prompting the rest of the investigators to worry that he might be about to leave the NCIS again. Meanwhile, Ziva introduces her new boyfriend to her team-mates. (R)
10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Russell and the team investigate a suspected hit-and-run, but the lack of skid marks on the road and the unusual impact angle leads them to think that this could be a suicide.
10.55 Film: Educating Rita. (1983) A Liverpool hairdresser enrols on an Open University course, bringing much-needed inspiration to a boozy, world-weary tutor. Comedy drama, starring Michael Caine.
1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** Grand Theft Auto: UK. (R) **4.00** Nanna Love: 50 Shades of Granny. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **8.00** Top Gear **9.10 Film:** Pretty Woman (1990) **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** Killer Magic **1.05** Him & Her: The Wedding **3.30** Great TV Mistakes **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Chemistry – A Volatile History **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.40** Definitely Dusty **11.40** Dusty Springfield at the BBC **12.40** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.15** Disco at the BBC **2.15** Wild China **3.15** Sounds of the 70s 2: Art House Glam – Get in the Swing **3.45** Close
ITV2
12.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.20** Reggie & Thunderbirds: No Strings Attached **2.25 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **4.30** Mr Bean **5.40 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **7.30 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **10.00** Celebrity Juice: Easter Special **10.50** Ibiza Weekender **11.50 Film:** Death Race (2008) **1.55** Hell's Kitchen **2.35** Crazy Beaches **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
11.20 Film: Carry On Jack (1963) **1.10 Film:** Carry On Cowboy (1966) **3.10 Film:** Carry On Screaming (1966) **5.05 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **7.05 Film:** Carry On Cleo (1964) **9.00** Carry On Forever **10.00 Film:** Carry On Camping (1969) **11.50 Film:** 10 Little Indians (1974) **1.50** On the Buses **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
1.50 Film: Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **3.45 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.55** Shed and Buried **7.55** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **11.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. **1.30** Anthony Joshua: The Journey **2.30** Nitro Circus **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Melissa & Joey **12.30** Baby Daddy **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Rush Hour 3 (2007) **10.50** Rude Tube **11.50** Troy **12.55** The 100 **1.50** 2 Broke Girls **2.20** How I Met Your Mother **3.50** Taking New York **4.45** Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special
Film4
11.00 The Lost World (1960) **1.00** My Neighbour Totoro (1988) **2.50** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **4.40** Inkheart (2008) **6.50** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **9.00** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.10** Vehicle 19 (2013) **12.50** The Omen (1976) **3.15** Close

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Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Family Information Service

CHOICE

Julie Walters

Indian Summers (Channel 4, 9pm)
As the British community turns out in force for the murder trial, Ian is racked with guilt about Ramu's arrest and prepares to act as his alibi, while Sooni takes advantage of the court case to gain some much-needed legal experience. Leena is torn apart in the witness box, causing Dougie to publicly support her – a move that humiliates Sarah. Ralph is terrified that the truth of Adam's true paternity will be revealed, while Aafrin finally admits his true feelings for Alice. Drama set during the summer of 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India. Starring JAlyy Khan, Ikhlaque Khan, Edward Hogg, Julie Walters, Henry Lloyd-Hughes, Rick Warden, Peter Sullivan and Aysha Kala.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Peter. **10.00** Live Easter Sunday – From Manchester Cathedral. **11.00** Urbi et Orbi. **11.25** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15 Film:** The Muppets. (2011) Comedy, starring Jason Segel. **2.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.55** The Truth About Fat. (R) **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Countryfile. The show comes from the Brecklands of Norfolk, where for Easter Sunday Matt Baker learns all about the importance of rabbits to the area – from their part in maintaining the heath to the link between rabbits and the stone-curlew, one of the rarest visiting birds. Ellie Harrison goes foraging for scrap metal to make sculptures, and visits Grimes Graves – the remains of Neolithic flint mines – and James Wong is in Liverpool for the launch of the Grow Wild campaign. Plus, Tom Heap reveals how the supply of fresh potatoes is outstripping demand. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Belton House in Lincolnshire, where finds include Chairman Mao memorabilia and a funeral standard reportedly snatched from Oliver Cromwell's coffin.

8.00 Michael McIntyre's Easter Night at the Coliseum. The comedian presents an evening of variety from the Coliseum Theatre in London.

9.00 Poldark. Ross tries to form an alliance with his fellow mine-owners to build their own smelting company, Demelza resolves to reconcile Verity with Captain Blamey, and Mark has a new love.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League matches, which were Sunderland v Newcastle United at the Stadium of Light and Burnley v Tottenham Hotspur at Turf Moor.

11.30 Film: Son of Rambow. (2007) Comedy, with Bill Milner.

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Gardeners' World. (R) **6.35** Countryfile. (R) **7.35** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.05** The Gospel of John. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **11.30** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **12.30** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.30 Film:** King of Kings. (1961) **4.05** Flog It! (R) **4.50 Film:** Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time. (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Jake Gyllenhaal.

6.35 Pompidou. The heater in the caravan breaks down. Last in the series.

7.00 Springwatch at Easter. The wildlife programme returns for a one-off edition showcasing the best of British wildlife just as the countryside is bursting into colour and life and the breeding season is getting under way. Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan will be hoping for plenty of eggs at one of the UK's largest seabird colonies, Martin Hughes-Games reports from Suffolk and Simon King is on Islay in the Inner Hebrides. (R)

8.00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve. Simon begins the last leg of his journey in Nicaragua and visits the Rama-Kriol people, who face losing their ancestral homes due to the construction of a new transoceanic waterway. Simon then discovers Hondurans living in the grip of some of the most violent criminal gangs in the world, with San Pedro Sula having the highest murder rate of any city on the planet. Last in the series.

9.00 Louis Theroux: Transgender Kids. Louis travels to San Francisco, where he spends time with children who are undergoing gender-reassignment treatment at UCSF Hospital's Child and Adolescent Gender Centre.

10.00 Bluestone 42. New room-mates Ellen and Bird soon start bickering and Towerblock keeps putting off the difficult phone call home to his wife.

10.30 Jack Dee – So What? A 2013 stand-up performance at London's Hammersmith Apollo.

11.30 Film: Invincible. (2006) Fact-based sporting drama about an American football fan given the chance to play for the team he has supported all his life. With Mark Wahlberg.

1.10 Film: Hooper. (1978) **2.45** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.40** Holby City. (R) **4.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.45** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.10 Film:** Agent Cody Banks. (2003) **4.05** Reggie & Thunderbirds: No Strings Attached. **5.05** Catchphrase. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Olympic gold medallist Greg Rutherford, Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph, Emmerdale's Matthew Wolfenden and football pundit Chris Kamara play for charity. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)

7.30 Off Their Rockers. Pamela looks for love on a dating app, Seb mixes up his medication and Rosemary takes a peek at her grandson's internet history.

8.00 Vera. New series. Return of the crime drama starring Brenda Blethyn. The detective investigates a fire that rips through a holiday park on the Northumberland coast, destroying three cabins. A young woman's body is discovered and the resort's owner, Jim Viner, fears the victim is his sister Deena when he returns from a weekend away with his daughter Clare. With Jim's suspicions confirmed, a police report then reveals Clare's boyfriend Ryan and his friends had been partying near the scene hours before the blaze started, but where are they now, and where is Deena's best friend Sally?

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. The three remaining contenders battle to be crowned winner, as they abseil down a waterfall and follow the sound of a distress signal through a mangrove swamp. Last in the series. (R)

11.20 The Nation's Favourite 70s Number One. The 20 greatest hits of the 1970s, as voted for by the public, featuring interviews with hit-makers such as Art Garfunkel, Blondie, Abba and Gloria Gaynor. Narrated by Zoe Ball. (R)

12.40 The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 How I Met Your Mother. **6.30** How I Met Your Mother. **6.55** How I Met Your Mother. **7.15** How I Met Your Mother. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55 Film:** Honey, I Blew Up the Kid. (1992) A scientist perfects a device for enlarging objects, but accidentally turns his infant son into a giant. Disney comedy sequel, with Rick Moranis. **4.40 Film:** Hop. (2011) The Easter bunny's son abandons the chocolate-delivering business to seek his fortune in Hollywood. Part-animated comedy, starring James Marsden, with the voice of Russell Brand.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Three in a Bed. A week of competitive B&B hosting, featuring a loud student party, supercar-racing at Silverstone, some cordon-bleu cooking and a slice of rural bliss.

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel along the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Union Canal in a coast-to-coast adventure from Edinburgh to Glasgow. Last in the series.

9.00 Indian Summers. As the British community turns out in force for the murder trial, Ian is racked with guilt about Ramu's arrest and prepares to act as his alibi, while Sooni takes advantage of the court case to gain some much-needed legal experience. Leena is torn apart in the witness box, causing Dougie to publicly support her – a move that humiliates Sarah. Ralph is terrified that the truth of Adam's true paternity will be revealed, while Aafrin finally admits his true feelings for Alice.

10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.10 Film: The Angels' Share. (2012) Four people on community service plan to turn their fortunes around by stealing a cask of valuable whisky. Ken Loach's comedy drama, starring Paul Brannigan and John Henshaw.

1.00 Film: Qissa: The Tale of a Lonely Ghost. (2013) **2.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Jamie's Money Saving Meals. (R) **5.30** The Common Denominator. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.40** Chloe's Closet. (R) **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.25** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.55** Zack and Quack. **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.30** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.45** LazyTown. **9.15** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.45 Film:** Thomas & Friends: Tale of the Brave. (2014) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Small. **10.55** Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards 2015. **12.05 Film:** Patch Adams. (1998) Comedy drama, with Robin Williams. **2.20 Film:** Baby Boom. (1987) Comedy, starring Diane Keaton. **4.25 Film:** Fairytale: A True Story. (1997) Fact-based drama, with Florence Hoath and Elizabeth Earl.

6.15 5 News Weekend.

6.20 Film: Kelly's Heroes. (1970) A rebellious American soldier fighting in occupied France learns from a captive German officer the whereabouts of a fortune in Nazi gold. Recruiting the aid of three fellow soldiers, he puts together a daring plan to penetrate enemy lines to get their hands on the bullion. Second World War adventure, starring Clint Eastwood, Telly Savalas, Donald Sutherland, Don Rickles and Harry Dean Stanton. Edited for language.

9.00 Film: Hummingbird. (2013) Premiere. A haunted special forces soldier returns to London from Afghanistan and assumes another man's identity, hoping to make a fresh start. He is drawn into the city's criminal underworld, where his skills prove valuable to the highest bidder, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, with Jason Statham and Agata Buzek.

11.10 Film: Blitz. (2011) An uncompromising cop with controversial violent methods is set on the trail of a serial killer who preys on police officers. Crime thriller, with Jason Statham.

1.10 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** The Gadget Show. Jon tests a selection of curved TVs. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A cluttered B&B on the Norfolk coast. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **9.15 Film:** Transsiberian (2008) **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** Killer Magic **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** Family Guy **12.55** Bluestone 42 **1.25** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **2.20** Beaten by My Boyfriend **3.20** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **3.30** Killer Magic **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Arena: Oooh Er, Missus! The Frankie Howerd Story **8.00** Shakespeare's Mother: The Secret Life of a Tudor Woman **9.00** Lost Cities of the Ancients **10.00** The Truth About Meteors **11.00** Freddie Mercury: The Great Pretender – Director's Cut **12.25** Queen: The Legendary 1975 Concert **1.15** Mr Blue Sky: The Story of Jeff Lynne and ELO **2.15** Jeff Lynne's ELO at Hyde Park

ITV2
12.45 Scorpion **1.35** You've Been Framed! **2.05** Mr Bean **3.15 Film:** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **5.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **7.10 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **9.00 Film:** Skyfall (2012) **11.55 Film:** Harold & Kumar Get the Munchies (2004) **1.40** Mom **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.45 Film: Carry On Henry (1971) **1.35 Film:** Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **3.25 Film:** Carry On Loving (1970) **5.15 Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **7.05 Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **9.00** Carry On Forever **10.00 Film:** Carry On Girls (1973) **11.50 Film:** Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) **1.50** Wycliffe **2.45** On the Buses **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
6.30 Goodwood 73rd Members' Meeting **7.30** Counting Cars **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45 Film:** Boogeyman (2004) **2.35** Nitro Circus **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
1.00 Film: The NeverEnding Story II: The Next Chapter (1991) **2.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.00** The Frozen Phenomenon **4.00** Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** My Sister's Keeper (2009) **10.10** The Inbetweeners **12.25** Channel 4's Comedy Gala **1.25** The 100 **2.20** Revenge **3.05** Rules of Engagement

Film4
11.00 Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) **1.00** Ponyo (2008) **3.10** Clueless (1995) **5.05** The Iron Giant (1999) **6.45** The Eagle (2011) **9.00** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **11.25** From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **1.35** Damien: Omen II (1978) **3.50** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Blade: Trinity, Channel 5, 11pm
The fearless warrior's blood-sucking foes frame him for murder, forcing him to go on the run from the FBI while his enemies resurrect the first and most powerful of their kind – Dracula himself. Fantasy action thriller sequel, with Wesley Snipes and Dominic Purcell. (2004)

TUESDAY
Carry On at Your Convenience, ITV, 11.10pm
Production at toilet manufacturers WC Boggs is brought to a halt when an over-eager trade union representative calls a strike. However, worker unrest is quickly quelled by a jolly trip to the seaside. Comedy, starring Sid James. (1971)

WEDNESDAY
Fifty Dead Men Walking, BBC1, 11.15pm
Fact-based thriller telling the story of Martin McGartland, who was recruited as a police informant in 1980s Belfast and sent on a mission to infiltrate the IRA. He rose swiftly through the ranks, providing vital information to the British authorities. Once he was exposed, he was tortured and forced to go into hiding. Starring Jim Sturgess and Ben Kingsley. (2008)

Blade: Trinity, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY
Stranger in an Amish Town, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A penniless stranger and his son turn up on the doorstep of three Amish sisters, who offer him a place to stay and a job as a handyman. The women's police officer niece is suspicious of the new arrival and tries to find out where he has come from. Romantic mystery, starring Sarah Lancaster. (2014)

FRIDAY
First Blood, ITV, 10.40pm
Vietnam veteran John Rambo is wrongfully arrested in a backwoods town and tested to the limits of his endurance by a brutal deputy. Rambo escapes from his cell and heads out to the woods, and with the forces of the law in hot pursuit he finally has the chance to fight them on his own terms. Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Brian Dennehy, Richard Crenna and David Caruso. (1982)

Griff is back on track in his journey of discovery

Sometimes, the simplest approach is the best, so we'll leave Griff Rhys Jones himself to describe the premise of his new series.

He says: "Africa. There's nowhere else quite like it. A billion people speaking thousands of languages and a paradise of wild animals and natural wonders. I'm going to take it on in an unhurried manner aboard Africa's railways. It's the ideal way to meet its people and to experience its beauty."

And that, in a nutshell, is that.

During his trip, Griff will travel through Algeria, Tunisia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa – it's a 17,000-mile journey that begins in the Moroccan city of Marrakech.

"I love Morocco," reveals Griff. "I love the feeling of being on the cusp of Africa here. What could be more authentic, you see? What could be more Moroccan, than a cup of mint tea? Except that tea was introduced by the English when they took over Tangiers and it comes all the way from China.

"So, whenever you're in Africa, the idea that we are coming here on this huge journey to look for the 'real' Africa is nonsense. You never find the real Africa, what you find is the mix that created Africa from way back."

After stocking up on a few essential supplies at a colourful local marketplace, he boards a train for a seven-hour journey to Fes, and immediately sets about making friends in the hope that they will help him pass the time.

One of his fellow travellers is a salesman selling traditional Berber remedies. Griff bravely tries a stick that doubles as a toothbrush, but baulks at the idea of some brown paste used to treat worms.

Once in Fes, he hooks up with Abdul, who turns out to be arguably the city's most eccentric guide, and takes him on a tour of its medieval streets and medinas.

"This is a bit spooky isn't it?" says Griff, as he wanders around. "The whole city is like a maze which ends in dead ends and that was for defensive purposes. As you go along, you come to these huge gates and they could shut off whole quarters. The actual gates of the city of Fes were locked every night up until the 1960s."

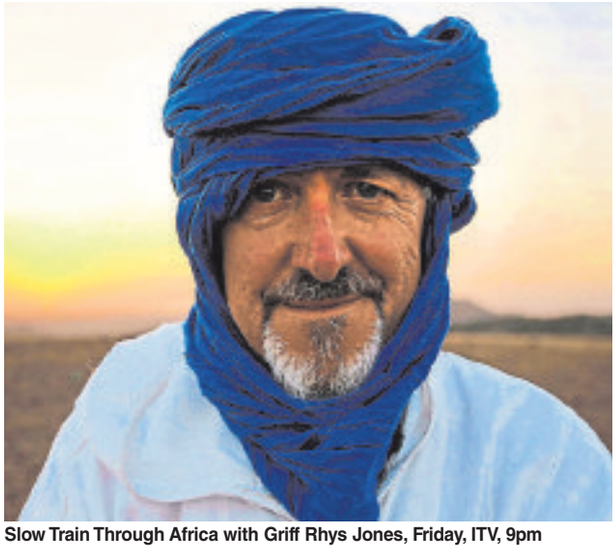
The next stage of his journey proves to be far more difficult. He needs to get to Algeria, but as the border between that nation and Morocco is currently closed, he must fly to Spain before getting another plane to the port of Oran.

But is the disjointed trip worth it?

"I was nervous about coming to Oran, I'll confess that," he reveals. "Because there has been a lot of trouble in Algeria and Oran itself has been a centre of contention ever since the 1960s.

"Basically the war of independence that cost a million lives pretty much started here when they raided the bank and they stole three million francs to pay for weapons."

Thankfully, the hospitable locals make Griff's concerns fade away before he prepares for next week's journey.



Slow Train Through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones, Friday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Travel Man: 48 Hours in Istanbul
Channel 4, 8.30pm
We like travel. We like funny stuff. So this mix of travelogue and documentary presented by two of Channel 4's funniest guys is a winner, as this week Richard Ayoade is joined by comedian Adam Hills. They're hitting – as the title would suggest – Istanbul for the weekend, as Richard attempts to show Adam how to holiday with ruthless efficiency. Istanbul is the only city in the world to straddle two continents, and the men cross the River Bosphorus from Europe to Asia, comparing a private yacht tour and a low-price public ferry. Next, they take in an authentic Turkish shave at a local barber shop, and share an awkward moment a Turkish bath and massage parlour. Plus, they head to the Grand Bazaar market and have a go at haggling.

Code of a Killer
ITV, 9pm
You can run but you can't hide from David Threlfall at the moment. If you missed him in The Ark over on the Beeb last week, worry not, there's another chance to catch him in this new drama, for which he joins John Simm. It's based on the true story of Alec Jeffreys' (Simm) discovery of DNA fingerprinting and its first use by Detective Chief Superintendent David Baker (Threlfall) while on the hunt for a murderer after a school girl is killed. Two years later, a second youngster is killed and a teenager confesses – but insists he's innocent of the first crime. Certain that the same man was responsible for both incidents, Baker and Jeffreys work together to prove the theory.

TUESDAY
Collectaholics
BBC2, 7pm
We're used to seeing a very sun-kissed Jasmine Harman on the box checking out properties abroad, but tonight, and for the next eight weeks, she appears in something very different indeed. She joins antiques expert Mark Hill once again to help people catalogue, curate, clear out and showcase their item. The duo meet Margaret Tyler, who is obsessed with royal memorabilia and even has a whole room dedicated to Diana, Princess of Wales. The only problem is that space has become very tight, so it's Mark and Jasmine's job to convince her to value quality over quantity. They also help Chris Cornell itemise his collection of natural history items, and Mark visits Jack Konveburg and Jan Morgan's house to take a look at their collection of design items, dating back to the 1940s.

Ice Rink on the Estate, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
The Island with Bear Grylls
Channel 4, 9pm
Reality TV has been around for long enough to risk becoming stale. New shows must, therefore, fight that tide by finding ever more ways to remain exciting. Channel 5 took it to new heights with 10,000 BC, which at times looked set to become the first TV show to inadvertently kill off its cast; The Island, as it returns for its second series, appears to be almost as perilous – but with the added advantage of having a lot more real-world context. Survival expert Bear Grylls imparts his knowledge to teams of men and women, before splitting them up and dropping them on separate Pacific islands.

THURSDAY
Ice Rink on the Estate
ITV, 9pm
New series. When they started their careers in their home city of Nottingham, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean received a grant from the council that allowed them to give up their jobs and focus on ice-skating. Now, the Olympic icons want to give something back, and their aim is to set up an ice rink in the heart of St Ann's estate and get the local teenagers involved in putting on a show. As training gets under way, the participants face their first performance – skating to Beethoven.

FRIDAY
Sex and the Church
BBC2, 9pm
New series. Historian Diarmaid MacCulloch explores how Christianity has shaped Western attitudes to sex, gender and sexuality throughout history. Travelling to Israel, Greece, Italy and Ireland, he begins by examining how the early Christians transformed intercourse from a biological necessity into a vice and from a pleasure into a sin.

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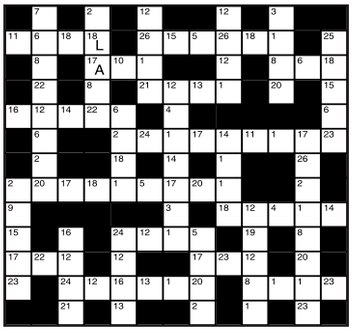
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17 A
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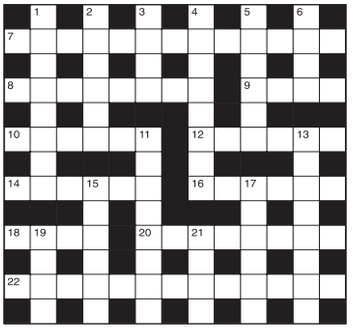
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	V	Q	T	S	N	K	W	M	A	P	H	I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
D	G	U	R	O	J	Z	B	C	Y	E	L	X

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. A system of detecting wireless site? (13)
8. See 6 Down
9. This will cut some of the potted geraniums (4)
10. French bitterness, I see! (6)
12. See 14 Across
14 & 12 Ac. One acts under what has become ingrained habit (6,6)
16. Alarmingly coiled, but far from fierce (6)
18. Featureless kind of race (4)
20. Showing lack of courtesy, I'm getting the stick about it (8)
22. Forcing one to adopt the faith - or just pretending (6,7)

Down

1. Railing is in poor condition in time (8)
2. Used for shooting one of Falstaff's followers (6)
3. Scheme to put fifty in a vessel (4)
4. Filmed but not exposed (8)
5. The way of a townsman (6)
6 & 8Ac. Kind of call for a runner (4-8)
11. Apples required for small fish (8)
13. Kind of clause for one of the family (8)
15. Get boat in a different way (6)
17. One dog - the miner has no end! (6)
19. Guide played by the star (4)
21. Noble support, we hear (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Blameworthy (13)
8. Impetus (8)
9. Entry (4)
10. Coating (6)
12. Rush (6)
14. Current (6)
16. Chief (6)
18. Fashionable (4)
20. Wizard (8)
22. Understanding (13)

Down

1. Fragrant (8)
2. Mourn (6)
3. Closed (4)
4. Hostile (8)
5. Loiter (6)
6. Lump (4)
11. Recall (8)
13. Lift (8)
15. Get away (6)
17. Charge (6)
19. Band (4)
21. Vale (4)

Sudoku

			1		2	3		6
	2	6	5				7	
9			7		6			
4	1		9			6		
							4	
	6	9			3		5	1
2					5			7
	7			9	4	5	2	
8		3	2					

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	4	9	6	5	2	1	8	7
5	7	6	3	1	8	4	2	9
2	8	1	4	9	7	5	6	3
9	6	7	8	3	5	2	4	1
1	2	4	9	7	6	3	5	8
8	3	5	1	2	4	7	9	6
7	9	2	5	6	3	8	1	4
6	5	8	7	4	1	9	3	2
4	1	3	2	8	9	6	7	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Gate; 8 Acute angle; 9 Director; 10 Pest; 12 Keeper; 14 Tartan; 15 Palace; 17 Betide; 18 Stye; 19 Well done; 21 Run at a loss; 22 Hits. Down: 2 Active part; 3 Ease; 4 Punter; 5 Secret; 6 Inspirit; 7 Felt; 11 Standing at; 13 Played an; 16 Enwrap; 17 Ballot; 18 Sort; 20 Dash. QUICK - Across: 1 Loss; 8 Positioned; 9 Handsome; 10 Same; 12 Revert; 14 Thirst; 15 Stroke; 17 Clever; 18 Glum; 19 Solitude; 21 Lugubrious; 22 Sign. Down: 2 Ornamental; 3 Sped; 4 Escort; 5 Street; 6 Conspire; 7 Idle; 11 Misleading; 13 Enormous; 16 Ensure; 17 Callow; 18 Gold; 20 Toss.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What is the capital of Rhode Island?
2. Which philosopher wrote On Liberty?
3. Who wrote Moby-Dick in 1851?
4. Which star of the film Uncle Buck died in March 1994?
5. Of what is the Victoria Cross now made?
6. Who was the mother of Richard I and King John?
7. In which London park is the Serpentine?
8. What does the Russian word 'soviet' mean?
9. What is the first day of Lent called?
10. What land did the US buy from Russia in 1867?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Philosophy; 2 Campaign for Real Ale 3 Colorado; 4 Jackal; 5 Anna Sewell; 6 Lufthansa; 7 Scotland; 8 Richard Cromwell; 9 Fingerprints; 10 Copper.

Niner: MISERABLY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

753483 gives a tree,
871 gives another tree,
6232329 gives fruit.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

GET CUSTOMERS MOVING ADVERTISE

Advertisements in local newspapers and websites are the most popular way of keeping an eye on the property market

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

To find out more about advertising in the Express & Star call 01902 31 31 31

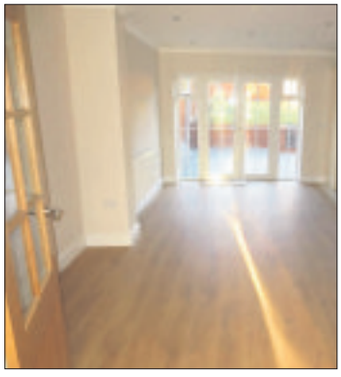
Express & Star

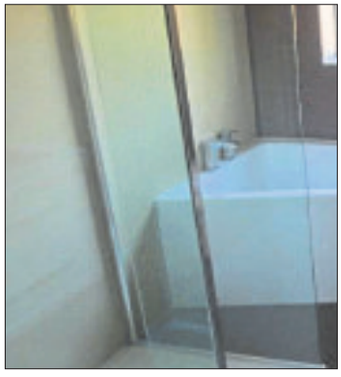
Stunning five-bed home available for £249,900

THIS immaculately refurbished stunning five-bedroomed semi-detached property in Moat Road, Oldbury has been finished to an extremely high specification, including a speaker system and CCTV. It is on the market for £249,900.

It has an entrance porch with spotlights and tiled flooring, an entrance hall with spotlights, laminate flooring and stairs off, a lounge with laminate flooring and oak double doors to a new kitchen/diner with soft close units and granite working surfaces, under floor heating, laminated and tiled flooring, double doors to the garden, a five-ring gas hob with extractor above and marble splash back, an electric oven and grill, space for an American-style fridge freezer, central island unit with coloured mood effect lighting above, mood effect lighting to base units, utility, downstairs shower room, five bedrooms and a bathroom, shower room and rear garden.

Contact Bairstow Eves on 0121 5444554 or visit www.bairstoweves.co.uk





Deceptively spacious well-presented home

A WELL-PRESENTED, improved and deceptively spacious extended semi-detached home in a cul-de-sac, 37 Leslie Road, Tividale is an ideal first time purchase.

It is for sale through Braithwaites at £124,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, an entrance hall with laminate flooring, a spacious through lounge/dining area, with patio doors and laminate flooring, extended kitchen with a dining area with part tiled/part laminate flooring, three bedrooms with laminate flooring and a bathroom with a bath with a shower and a front and rear garden.

For further information contact 0121 4211180 or visit www.braithwaites-estate-agents.co.uk

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MAR CITY HOMES

Part share of a starter home – £26,950

A DECEPTIVELY spacious and well presented two-bedroomed starter home in The Uplands, Bearwood, Smethwick is for sale at £26,950 for a 25 per cent share.

In a convenient location the property has a pleasant rear garden and steps bordered by lawn up to the front door.

Contained throughout is double glazing and gas central heating.

The property has an entrance vestibule and boasts a delightful lounge with a feature fireplace and wood-effect laminate flooring. There are stairs off, a fitted breakfast kitchen (with white doors and integral oven and hob), two double bedrooms and a bathroom.

For further information contact Taylors Estate Agents on 0121 4344345 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

An extended traditional semi is attractive and spacious

SITUATED within a quiet cul-de-sac, this extended traditional semi-detached family home in Crawford Avenue, Bearwood, Smethwick includes an extended breakfast kitchen.

It is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £169,950 with no chain.

It has an attractive driveway frontage, a porch, an entrance hall, under-stairs storage.

There are two reception rooms with an original glass bay window and sliding patio doors which lead to the extended rear room.

This eventually opens onto a decked terrace and wood-effect flooring.

There is also a dining kitchen with space for a table and chairs.

Meanwhile outside there is a generous garden and a detached garage.

For further information about the property contact the selling agentsRobert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit www.oulsnam.net

Improved and enhanced property with so much to offer

A improved and massively extended four-bedroomed detached property in the Sandwell Valley area of West Bromwich in Europa Avenue, is for sale through Connells Estate Agents at £285,000.

It has an entrance hall with solid wood flooring, a lounge with solid wood flooring and bi-folding doors to the dining room with solid wood flooring and patio doors to the garden.

The spacious kitchen/diner has attractive contemporary dark wood-effect units and coordinating working surfaces, a five-burner gas hob, cooker hood, electric oven, chrome heated towel rail and French doors.

There is also a downstairs shower room while upstairs is four bedrooms (bedroom one en-suite and three with wardrobes), a fully tiled bathroom with a bath with a shower over and chrome heated towel rail, attractive block paved driveway with adjoining lawn, a garage and a rear garden.

For further information contact Connells Estate Agents on 0121 5251177 or visit www.connells.co.uk

Three-bed home has planning permission for bungalow

HAVING an adjoining building plot with planning permission for a two bedroomed detached dormer bungalow, this attractively designed three-bedroomed detached house in Siskin Close, Oldbury comes with an excellent open plan dining kitchen.

It is for sale through Derek Spires at £269,500.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has an entrance hall, a WC, three bedrooms with the master bedroom having an en-suite shower room, bathroom, a through lounge with living flame coal effect gas fire, a fully refitted open plan dining/kitchen and good size gardens.

For further information contact the selling agents Derek Spires on 0121 4204646 or visit the firm's website at www.dereksspiresandco.com

Corner-plot detached can boast that 'wow factor'

A DETACHED corner plot residence with outstanding and highly deceptive accommodation in Hough Way, Essington, Wolverhampton really has the "wow factor".

Beautifully decorated throughout, it is for sale through Connells Estate Agents priced at £379,999.

The accommodation briefly comprises generous lounge area with a bay window and a wall mounted living flame fire, family dining kitchen with central island and French doors to the garden and a separate utility, five generous bedrooms and three en-suite/bathrooms.

There are front, side and rear gardens with a feature decked area and a double detached garage.

For further details contact 01902 710170 or visit www.connells.co.uk

Traditional home in sought-after location

NUMBER 44 Springhill Park, Lower Penn, Wolverhampton is an extended traditional three-bedroomed semi-detached home in one of the most sought after positions in the area.

Having many original features it is for sale through Berriman Eaton at £250,000.

It has a dining room with a walk-in bay window and a Victorian open fireplace, a lounge with French doors and a feature fireplace. The kitchen has a range cooker and a dining area, a main bedroom with a walk-in bay window, bedrooms two and three and a bathroom. There is a gravelled driveway and gardens with patio and shed.

Call 01902 326366 or visit www.berrimaneaton.co.uk

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13 CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD, OLDBURY

62 HAWKINS STREET, WEST BROMWICH

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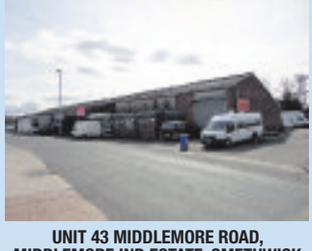


UNIT 43 MIDDLEMORE ROAD, MIDDLEMORE IND ESTATE, SMETHWICK

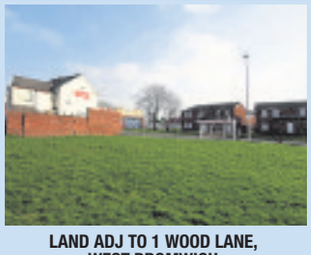
9 HIGHBURY ROAD, SMETHWICK

UNIT 17, HEATH ROAD, WEDNESBURY

32 BRADES ROAD, OLDBURY

85 BRADES ROAD, OLDBURY

99 GLADYS ROAD, SMETHWICK



LAND ADJ TO 1 WOOD LANE, WEST BROMWICH

Ideal family home on sale with no chain

THIS three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Tynedale Crescent, Ettingshall Park, Wolverhampton is for sale through Charles Derby at £164,950 with no chain.

With central heating and double glazing, the property has an entrance porch, hall with a storage cupboard, sitting room, lounge/dining room with a bow window and patio door, a kitchen with an electric oven, electric hob, extractor hood, two double bedrooms, a single bedroom and a bathroom.

There is a driveway providing off road parking and a large, well maintained garden to the rear. For further information contact Charles Derby on 01902 244200 or visit www.charlesderbyestates.com

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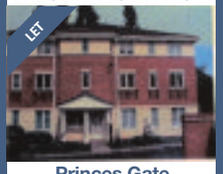
WEST BROMWICH — LET IN 1 WEEK

Hilton Street
Superb 2 bedroom property, spacious lounge, kitchen with dining space, central heated and double glazed, shower room and seperate w.c, unfurnished. Off road parking at rear of property. Must be viewed.
£550

WEST BROMWICH — LET



Princes Gate
Modern 2 bedroom apartment, near the M5. Large reception room, Double glazed window, storage heating. Communal car park. Security intercom system to entrance. Available unfurnished.
£525

WEST BROMWICH — NEW

Rydding Square
3 bedroom semi-detached property, large reception room, dining room, kitchen with dining space, downstairs shower room and upstairs bathroom, off road parking, garage, available unfurnished.
£550

WEST BROMWICH — LET

Vicarge Road
Very spacious 3 bedroom property, large through lounge, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, well maintained large rear garden, off road parking, must be viewed
£590

WEST BROMWICH — LET

Sydney Close
3 bedroom property with spacious lounge, ch and dg. Kitchen with dining space. first floor bathroom. off road parking available unfurnished.
£525

Tipton — LET

Avern Close
Modern one bedroom apartment, storage heating, double glazed windows, spacious lounge and bedroom, available unfurnished. designated parking space.
£375

WEST BROMWIVH — LET IN 1 WEEK

Mountbatton Road
Very spacious 1 bedroom apartment in a prime location, good size living room, bedroom, newly fitted kitchen, bathroom with overhead shower, ch and double glazed, designated parking space. Unfurnished.
£450

WEST BROMWICH — LET

Crookhay Lane
Spacious 3 bedroom property, reception room, dining area, central heated and double glazed, rear garden and off road parking, available fully furnished for £600 or part furnished for £575
£575-£600

WALSALL / PEL- — NEW

Shireview Road
3 bedroom spacious property, large reception room, breakfast kitchen, down stairs w.c and upstairs bathroom, central heated and double glazed, enclosed rear garden, off road parking, available unfurnished.
£550

WEST BROMWICH — LET

Elizabeth Road
Very spacious 3 bedroom house, lounge, dining room, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking, Unfurnished.
£580

WEST BROMWICH

Wood Lane
3 bedroom end of terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg. ground floor bathroom with overhead shower. available unfurnished.
£499 pcm

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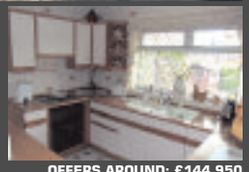
TIPTON GALTON CLOSE
- Three Bed Link Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Extended Garage
- Cul-de-sac location

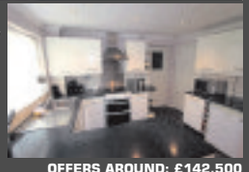
OFFERS AROUND: £149,950

TIPTON HAZEL ROAD
- Semi Detached Bungalow
- 2 Bedrooms, Master Fitted
- Lovely Cul-De-Sac Position
- Vacant Possession
- Double Glazed and Central Heated
- Cavity Wall Insulation
- Very Nicely Presented Throughout
- Early Viewing Recommended to Avoid Disappointment



OFFERS AROUND: £144,950

TIPTON BELMONT CLOSE
- Well maintained Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Cul-De-Sac Location



OFFERS AROUND: £142,500

WEST BROMWICH GADS LANE
- Traditional Two Bed Semi Detached Property
- Extended to the side
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Wet Room
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

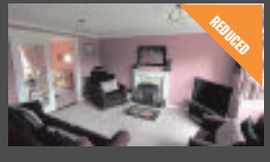
OFFERS AROUND: £124,950

TIPTON JOHNS LANE
- Modern Two Bed Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking for several vehicles
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Fired Central Heating

OFFERS AROUND: £102,500

TIPTON DUDLEY ROAD
- Three Bed Victorian Mid Terrace
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Extended Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing & Gas Fired Central Heating
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950



TIPTON PEPPERBOX DRIVE
- Modern Four Bed Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Utility Area
- Downstairs WC
- En-Suite To Master
- Family Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £214,950

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DUDLEY GADS GREEN CRESCENT
- A Well Presented and Maintained Two Bed Apartment
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- Leasehold
- Viewing Essential to Appreciate the Standard of

OFFERS AROUND: £64,950

TIPTON CENTRAL AVENUE
- 4 bedroom family home
- Semi detached near all amenities
- Double glazed and central heating
- Vacant possession
- Off road parking
- Enclosed garden
- Ideal family home

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950

TIPTON SHRUBBERY AVENUE
- Three Bed Traditional Semi Detached Family Home
- Occupying A Prominent Corner Location
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazed & Gas Fire Central Heating
- Off Street Parking

OFFERS AROUND: £89,995

TIPTON COLBOURNE ROAD
- Mid terrace house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Rear garden
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating

OFFERS AROUND: £75,000

TIPTON SEDGLEY ROAD WEST
- Semi detached in established location
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 Receptions
- Off road parking, potential for garage
- Large rear garden
- Ideally placed to all amenities
- No central heating, in need of upgrading

OFFERS AROUND: £104,950

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- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room

OIRO £219,950

Pemberton Crescent, Wednesbury
- Detached Property
- Four bedrooms
- 2 Reception rooms
- downstairs W/C
- Kitchen/Diner
- Off road Parking

Asking price of £210,000

Grayling Close, Wednesbury
- DETACHED
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- ENSUITE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- DINING ROOM

OIRO £189,995

Brookfield Way, Tipton
- DETACHED PROPERTY
- AMPLY OFF ROAD PARKING
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- REAR GARDEN
- OFFICE AREA

OIRO £187,500

Rough Hay Road, Wednesbury
- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- THREE STORYS
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST BAR
- CONSERVATORY
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C

£179,950

Pitchwood Close, Wednesbury
- SEMI-DETACHED
- THREE BEDROOM
- EN SUITE TO MASTER
- MODERN THROUGHOUT
- FITTED KITCHEN/DINER
- GROUND FLOOR W.C

OIRO £135,000

Hall Street East, Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO BATHROOMS
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE
- LOUNGE/DINER

£130,000

Old Park Road, Wednesbury
- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom

OIRO £128,000

Romulus Close, Birmingham
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

Guide Price £124,999

Tame Street, West Bromwich
- Mid Terrace House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Downstairs WC
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Private Parking

Offers in excess of £120,000

Wills Avenue, West Bromwich
- END TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- GARAGE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C.

£120,000

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- Three Bedroom House
- Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

£117,000

Salter Road, Tipton
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £105,000

Wiley Avenue, Wednesbury
- SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- KITCHEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £100,000

Howard Street, Tipton
- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Shower Room
- Re-Styled Kitchen
- Large Side Entrance Porch

£99,995

Toll End Road, Tipton
- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Rear Garden
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Well Located

£99,950

Queen Street, Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Moxley Road, Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- DINER
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN

£89,950

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- ENSUITE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN

OIRO £87,950

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE/DINER

OIRO £87,500

Mark Road, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING

Offers in Excess of £87,000

Damson Wharf, Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom&Downstairs WC
- Two Sold, One Left!
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Will Bring £560 PCM

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Booth Street, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
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Rugeley Close, Tipton
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Wednesbury

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Jasmine Way, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Integral Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility and Downstairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £600

Woden Road North, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Located Near A School
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Rear Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Orchard Rise, Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Brand New
- Fitted Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Dorsett Road, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Open Fires in kitchen and Living Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Oberon Grove, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Fully Furnished
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

The Avenue, Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms First Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Vauxhall Road, Birmingham
- ONE BEDROOM FLAT
- GROUND FLOOR
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- BATHROOM
- KITCHEN

Monthly Rental Of £450

Alder Road, Wednesbury
- FOUR Bedrooms
- Semi-Detached House
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Extensive Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental of £575

Wesley Grove, Wednesbury
- Three bedroom Semi detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central heating
- Front and Rear gardens
- Recently Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £495

The Avenue, Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating
- Designated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

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Broadwaters Road, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550

Carden Close, West Bromwich
- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Large Rear Garden
- Front And Rear Access
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

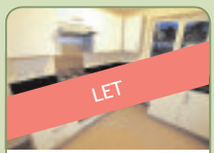
Monthly Rental Of £475

Talbot House, Wednesbury
- First Floor Apartment
- Central Location
- Close to Bus Station
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £325

Harvills Hawthorn, West Midlands
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £450



Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
- Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Myvod Road, Wednesbury
- One Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking
- Newly Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Walsall Street, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Secured Accses
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £400

Warren Close, Tipton
- Two Bedroom Maisonete
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Street Parking
- Fully Furnished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £395

Manifold Way,
- Second Floor One Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £395

Phoenix Rise, Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Double Glazing
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- MUST SEE!
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £350

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Bilston Road, Tipton

- Traditional Extended Semi Detached
- UPVc double-glazing ● Gas central heating
- Extended to ground & first floor
- 4 bedrooms ● loft room, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £149,950
Viewing:

Salter Road, Tipton

- Much Improved Middle Terrace
- Upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- Spacious family accommodation
- 3 bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Upper Church Lane, Tipton

- Purpose Built First Floor Flat
- Ideal First Time Purchase / Buy To Let Investment
- Good Size Accommodation
- 1 bedroom, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £39,995
Viewing:

Elizabeth Walk, Tipton

- Extended Semi Detached
- upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- sought after location ● Garage Conversion
- 3 bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £160,000
Viewing:

Brunel Drive, Tipton

- Modern Middle Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Well Presented Accommodation
- 2 bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £79,950
Viewing:

William Barrows Way, Tipton

- Modern 2.5 Storey Detached
- Large Family Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 5 Bedrooms ● 2 En Suites, EPC B

OFFERS AROUND: £235,000
Viewing:

Bilston Road, Tipton

- Traditional Detached Bungalow
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Reception Hall
- 2 bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

Sefton Grove, Tipton

- Much Extended Modern Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Superbly Presented Accommodation
- 3 bedrooms ● en suite, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £174,950
Viewing:

Morris Street, West Bromwich — NEW

- End Terrace House
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- , Kitchen/Diner

OFFERS AROUND: £130,000
Viewing:

Maud Road, West Bromwich

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor W/C
- , First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £135,000
Viewing:

Wolseley Road, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- 50% Shared Ownership Scheme
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £57,500
Viewing:

Hall Green Road, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Driveway, Utility/Ground Floor W/C

OFFERS AROUND: £190,000
Viewing:

Bridle Grove, West Bromwich — REDUCED

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating, Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £250,000
Viewing:

Morris Street, West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- , Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Coronation Road, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating C, Modern Bathroom & WC

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Hazel Road, Tipton

- Upper Floor Maisonette
- Two Bedrooms
- Modern Bathroom & Kitchen
- , Spacious Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

Berkshire Crescent, Wednesbury

- Well Presented Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Shower Room
- EPC Rating: C, Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

Park Lane, Wednesbury

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Extended Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing:

Pritchard Street, Wednesbury

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms & Kitchen
- , Entrance Hallway

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

Mark Road, Wednesbury

- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- EPC Rating - E, Rear Garden

OFFERS AROUND: £88,000
Viewing:

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NEW

Devon Road, Bearwood

- Double Fronted Victorian House
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- Close to Warley Woods
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £385,000

Park Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Additional Ground Floor toilet
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £174,950

NEW

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Exceptional Detached Property
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Dining Kitchen
- Beautifully Maintained Garden
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £374,950

NEW

Crawford Avenue, Smethwick

- Extended Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW

Norman Road, Smethwick

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Requires General Updating
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £167,500

NEW PRICE

Moat Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern, Extended Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £179,950

WANTED

Due to exceptional levels of sales, we urgently require more properties to meet the demand of potential buyers.

If you are considering a move, we want to hear from you!

NOW is the time to sell!

NEW PRICE

Portland Road, Edgbaston

- Most Attractive Modern Terrace
- Stylish Lounge
- Three Bedrooms
- Ideal First Purchase
- Option for 40% Shared Basis
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £150,000 (100% price)

NEW PRICE

Ferndale Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi Detached
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Well Maintained Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £114,950

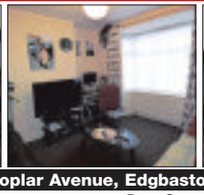
Milton Court, Sandon Road, Smethwick

NEW PRICE

- Attractive Retirement Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Residents Parking
- EP Rating C

Offers in excess of £64,950

NEW PRICE



Poplar Avenue, Edgbaston

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Rear Garage/Store
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £149,950

Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Tastefully Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Attractive Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- GF Shower & FF Bathroom
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £129,950

Hill Top Road, Oldbury

NEW PRICE

- Well Presented Modern Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Garage
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £154,950

The Uplands, Smethwick

- Most Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Vince Street, Smethwick

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £99,950

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NEW

58 TALBOT ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented & recently refurbished
- Gas centrally heated, double glazed and alarmed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with double shower compartment & bath
- Lounge, dining room and superbly presented kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £139,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

56 SLATCH HOUSE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Quiet cul-de-sac close to Warley Woods
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Spacious lounge & kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- IN NEED OF COSMETIC IMPROVEMENT
- ENERGY RATING : E

PURCHASE PRICE £99,995

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

10 OLDACRE ROAD, OLDBURY

- Modern freehold town house
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Shower room and separate W.C.
- Spacious lounge & kitchen/dining room
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

52 SAFFRON, AMINGTON

- Modern freehold end town house
- Three bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Hall, lounge & open plan dining/kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Good size garden & side garage
- Off-street parking
- Cul-de-sac location easy reach Tamworth town centre
- Good access M42
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £105,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

34 WILSON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Prime location close to Warley Woods
- Freehold semi-detached property
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge, conservatory, kitchen & small utility
- Off-street parking for two cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £164,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

REDUCED

120 NORMAN ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Substantial and extended semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- FOUR BEDROOMS (master bedroom having en-suite fully tiled bathroom
- House bathroom with electric shower and individual shower compartment
- Hallway, lounge and dining room
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Double garage with electric doors
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for five/six cars
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £260,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

70 GLADYS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms, refitted kitchen and refitted fully tiled bathroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

25 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Recently refurbished
- 3 bedrooms
- Downstairs WC
- Potential off-road parking
- Detached garage
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £159,950

Viewings : Bearwood Office

REDUCED

8 CONWAY AVENUE, OLDBURY

- Immaculate and superbly presented
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms & fully tiled refitted bathroom with shower
- Hall, lounge, impressive 17ft dining/kitchen and laundry/utility room
- Off-street parking for two/three cars
- Neat laid out gardens
- Pleasant location at head of residential cul-de-sac
- INTERNAL INSPECTION ESSENTIAL
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £154,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

261A LONG LANE, HALESOWEN

- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom with individual shower compartment
- Two reception rooms and kitchen
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

PURCHASE PRICE £94,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

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73 QUEENSRIDGE COURT, OLDBURY

- Retirement home designated for over 60s
- 35% SHARE
- PVC double glazed
- Under floor heating
- Two bedrooms
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : B

OFFERS BASED ON £28,875

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

9 ROSLYN CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Modern first floor maisonette
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms and bathroom
- Spacious lounge and fitted kitchen
- Excellent storage facilities
- Gated off-street parking
- Garden/drying area
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING: C

OFFERS BASED ON £84,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

38 DRAYTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Lounge, dining room and kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £135,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

35 DURHAM ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

- Modern 2 bedroomed town house
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Lounge and kitchen
- Gardens to front and rear
- Allocated parking
- Ideal FTBS
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

PURCHASE PRICE £79,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

PRICES from £59,000

PERRY COURT

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59 HURST ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Off-street parking for two cars
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

15 EMBASSY ROAD, OLDBURY

- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, spacious lounge & kitchen/breakfast room
- Off-street parking and garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £134,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

32 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Original fittings to include fireplaces, door & windows
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Lounge, dining room and kitchen
- Pleasant gardens
- Sympathetically improved
- Gas centrally heated
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

58 WEDGEWOOD ROAD, QUINTON

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms & bathroom with electric shower
- Hall, lounge, dining room and kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

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Bartleet Road, Smethwick £224,950 REDUCED
A well maintained detached house with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, upstairs family bathroom, driveway, garage and gardens to rear. EPC: D

Winson Street, Birmingham £45,000 NEW
A ground floor flat located within close proximity to local amenities and schools representing the ideal first time buy or investment. Accommodation comprises: open plan lounge/kitchen/diner, bedroom and shower room. EPC: F

Dawson Street, Smethwick £115,000 NEW
A mid terraced Victorian property with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and gardens. EPC: D

Devon Road, Bearwood £270,000 NEW
A bay front semi detached property with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast, three first floor bedrooms, bathroom, off-road parking and gardens. EPC: E

Central Park Drive, Hockley £210,000 REDUCED
A mid townhouse having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen/diner, two reception rooms, four bedrooms, family bathroom, en-suite, gardens to rear. EPC: C

Katherine Road, Bearwood £145,000 NEW
A mid terraced Victorian property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance lobby, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms and gardens. EPC: D

Selwyn Road, Birmingham £490,000 REDUCED
A recently renovated detached family home with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, third reception, kitchen, shower room/utility, four double bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking and gardens. EPC: E

Vince Street, Smethwick £115,000 NEW
A superbly presented mid terraced Victorian property with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, through dining/kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, gardens. EPC: E

Princess Road, Oldbury £130,000 REDUCED
A semi detached property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance porch, kitchen, two reception rooms, three bedrooms, shower room, garage to front and gardens to rear. Extensive off-road parking. EPC: D

Wellington Road, Smethwick £130,000 NEW
A Victorian property situated in a convenient residential location having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance lobby, entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and gardens. EPC: E

Gilbert Road, Smethwick £125,000 REDUCED
A well maintained mid terraced property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: two reception rooms, kitchen, shower room, three bedrooms, all with en-suite toilet. Garden to rear. EPC: D

Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

Bowling Green Drive, Smethwick £229,950 NEW
EPC RATING AWAITED - An IMMACULATELY presented modern three/four bedroomed link detached property in CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION. ●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER●

Theodore Close, Oldbury £175,000 NEW
EPC RATING D - Offer for sale is this 3 bedroom semi detached property in a popular neighbourhood. In brief the property benefits from a through lounge, kitchen, conservatory, nicely sized rear garden, 3 bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Jarvis Crescent, Oldbury £134,950 NEW
EPC RATING AWAITED - A TRADITIONAL EXTENDED semi detached property comprising of through lounge/diner, extended kitchen/diner, downstairs shower room, three bedrooms, garage to side and front driveway to provide off road parking. ●VIEWING IS RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER●

Shelsley Avenue, Oldbury £129,950 NEW
EPC RATING D - ●●● OPEN HOUSE EVENT - Saturday 4th April - CALL US TO CONFIRM TIME ●● An IMMACULATELY presented REFURBISHED 3 bedroom, semi detached property in CUL-DE-SAC location. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Weston Avenue, Tividale £125,000 NEW
EPC RATING D - Within a sought after residential location and situated on a quiet cul de sac is this EXTENDED 2 bed semi detached home which benefits from a generously proportioned kitchen/diner with 2 good sized bedrooms, NO ONWARD CHAIN, parking for multiple vehicles and an enclosed private rear garden AND GARAGE.

Elizabeth Crescent, Oldbury £120,000 NEW
EPC RATING D - A DOUBLE FRONTED mid terraced which comprises of two reception rooms, kitchen, four bedrooms and upstairs bathroom, front and rear gardens. Double glazed and central heating where specified. ●VIEWING IS RECOMMENDED TO APPRECAITE SIZE OF ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER●

Bristnall Hall Crescent, Oldbury £114,950
EPC RATING E - ●NO UPWARD CHAIN● A traditional three bedroom semi detached property comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, guest w.c and family bathroom. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

New Birmingham Road, Tividale £114,950 NEW
EPC RATING C - ●PERFECT FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS / YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OR DOWNSIZERS● An IMMACULATE modern apartment with garage, allocated parking space, PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, separate breakfast kitchen. Double glazing and centra heating where specified. ●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED●

Dingle Street, Oldbury £99,950
EPC RATING G - ●NO UPWARD CHAIN● A three bedroom semi detached property IN NEED OF MODERNISATION and comprises of lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, off road parking to front and garage to rear. IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Wheatsheaf Road, Tividale £95,000 NEW
EPC RATING C - ●IDEAL FIRST TIME BUYER PROPERTY● A semi detached property with block paved frontage, utility room and two DOUBLE bedrooms. VIEWING IS HIGHLY ADVISED

Parkes Street, Smethwick £87,500 NEW
EPC RATING D - ●IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYER● A mid terraced property with two DOUBLE bedrooms, downstairs shower room and family bathroom upstairs, extended fitted kitchen. ●VIEWING IS ADVISED●

Wednesbury 22 Springhead Wednesbury WS10 9AD

PUBLIC NOTICE
Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £58,500. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells, 22 Spring Head, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 9AD Tel 0121 556 2338 before exchange of contracts.

Pattern Gardens, Richards Street, Wednesbury
OPEN DAY SUNDAY 12TH APRIL 11AM - 3PM. FANTASTIC INCENTIVES ON OFFER !! A development of brand new 2,3 and 4 bedroom energy efficient homes situated near to Darlaston town centre all comprising stylish fitted kitchen, spacious lounge and guest cloakroom. The timber homes at Pattern Gardens not only provide low carbon construction, but offer warm, super insulated living. PRICES FROM £125,000 TO £150,000.
HELP TO BUY and SHARED OWNERSHIP AVAILABLE. Call us NOW on 0121 556 2338 to arrange a viewing appointment.

Spirit Mews, Cobden Street, Wednesbury £159,950 NEW
A four bedroom three storey end terrace property briefly comprising of guest cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, en-suite to master bedroom, allocated parking, garage, enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating B.

Gospel Oak Road, Tipton £142,500 NEW
OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 11TH APRIL 11AM - 3PM. Don't miss out, call now to book a viewing appointment ! VIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED to appreciate this traditional style three bedroom semi-detached property comprising lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, garage and off road parking. EPC Rating D.

Darby Road, Wednesbury £140,000 NEW
EARLY INSPECTION ADVISED to appreciate this extended three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) ground floor bathroom, through lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, enclosed rear garden, off road parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D.

Richard Williams Road, Wednesbury £81,950 NEW
BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN this three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking and garage. EPC Rating E.

St Pauls Crescent, West Bromwich £89,950 REDUCED
A 3 bedroom semi detached property, having central heating and double glazing (where specified),lounge, recently refurbished kitchen, downstairs bathroom, enclosed rear garden.●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC RATING D

Dale Street, Wednesbury £129,995
SSTC Similar Properties Urgently Required
VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED on this well presented three bedroom semi-detached property in a cul-de-sac location briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) reception hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking. EPC rating D.

Horseley Road, Tipton £119,950
SSTC Similar Properties Urgently Required
BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN this well presented and much improved traditional two bedroom detached bungalow, briefly comprising of porch entrance, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, fitted bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garage and drive-way. EPC rating D.

The Oaks, Gospel Oak Road, Tipton £179,995
SHOW HOME NOW OPEN !! A stunning new development of high spec family eco homes which are sure to be highly sought after. The eco homes come with 1kw of solar panels already installed, triple glazed windows and under-floor heating. HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE.

Brickhouse Lane, Tipton £50,000 NEW
BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN this one bedroom second floor apartment briefly comprising of, entrance hall, bathroom, lounge, kitchen and allocated parking. EPC rating E.

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

Clifford Road, West Bromwich £110,000 NEW
●●OPEN HOUSE EVENT●●An open house event will take place on Saturday 11th April at this 2 bedroom EXTENDED semi-detached house with 3 receptions rooms. Call Connells on 0121 525 1177 for more details and to register your interest.

Claypit Close, West Bromwich £155,000 REDUCED
A 4 bedroom detached property situated in a Cul de Sac location and offering 2 reception rooms, guest WC, modern fitted kitchen,family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified), off road parking, rear garden and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating C

Church Vale Mews, West Bromwich £99,950
●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●●Conveniently located for Sandwell Hospital and West Bromwich Town Centre, this modern style 3 bedroom mid terrace property offering part double glazing, central heating (where specified), lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, allocated parking to the rear. EPC RATING D

Solly Grove, Tipton £155,000
A well presented and well maintained modern 3 bedroom detached property located within a Cul-de-Sac position, offering 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, mesquite to master bedroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified), off road parking. EPC RATING D

Graham Road, West Bromwich £99,950
A THREE BEDROOM semi detached property situated in CUL-DE_SAC location in close proximity to West Bromwich town centre and Sandwell Hospital. Property comprises TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, kitchen, family bathroom, GARAGE, gas central heating and double glazing (both where specified). NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC

Canterbury Road, West Bromwich £95,000
A 2 bedroom semi detached property, offering lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, double glazing, electric heating, (where specified), rear garden and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D.

Witton Lane, West Bromwich £140,000 NEW
●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●●A well maintained traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property located close to local amenities, schools and public transport and offering 2 reception rooms, extended kitchen, family shower room, central heating, double glazing (where specified) EPC RATING E

Leacroft Grove, West Bromwich £170,000 NEW
●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● A part refurbished 3 bedroom detached property situated in a cul de sac location and offering, lounge, kitchen/diner, shower room, double glazing, central heating (where specified), integral garage, off road parking EPC RATING D

Tame Street, West Bromwich £65,000 REDUCED
●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● A modern 1 bedroom ground floor canal side apartment situated in a Cul de Sac and offering double bedroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified) and allocated parking. EPC rating B.

West Bromwich £79,950
PUBLIC NOTICE
Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £75,000 for 163 Wolseley Road, West Bromwich B70 0LU.
Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells, 3 Astle Park, West Bromwich B70 8NS, telephone 0121 525 1177 prior to exchange of contracts.

Three-bedroomed house is in a private cul-de-sac

THIS three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Kelverley Grove, West Bromwich is set within a private cul-de-sac. It is for sale through Bartrams at offers over £140,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hallway with stairs off and laminate flooring, a lounge with a bay window and feature fireplace, a kitchen with tiled flooring, a lean to, a bathroom with a white suite,, three bedrooms, garage and a garden with patio, shed and summerhouse. Contact Bartrams on 0121 6019370 or visit www.bartrams.com

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KELVERLEY GROVE, B71 3QL

NEW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

Offers In Excess Of £140,000

BAGNALL STREET, B70 6PN

- A Detached Property,Three bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- Double Garage, Driveway,
- Workshop, Freehold
- EPC RATING E

£249,950

WALSALL ROAD, B71 3JD

REDUCED

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- External Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING C
- Freehold

£109,950

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB

NEW

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Conservatory
- EPC TBC, Freehold

£184,950

CANTERBURY ROAD, B71 2LB

NEW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£95,000

OLDBURY ROAD, B70 9DZ

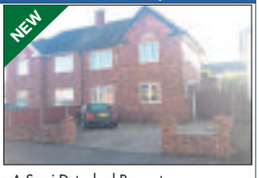
NEW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£89,950

REMEMBRANCE ROAD, WS10 0TE

NEW



- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£139,950

STANTON ROAD, B43 5HU

NEW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Loft Conversion, Conservatory
- Majority Double Glazing
- EPC TBC, Freehold

£189,950

WHITGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

REDUCED

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- EPC RATING F

£109,950

HOPE ROAD, DY4 7DF

REDUCED

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Ideal First Time Buy/ Investors
- Driveway, No Upward Chain
- Freehold, EPC TBC

£94,950

HYDES ROAD, WS10 0DF

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Garage, Off Road Parking To Rear
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£119,950

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- Extended
- Through Lounge
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£203,950

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- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£220,000

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning For Extension
- Freehold, No Upward Chain
- EPC TBC, Corner Plot

£249,950

WHITWORTH DRIVE, B71 3AU

NEW TO LET

- A Link Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central heating & Double Glazed
- Off Road Parking
- Garage, £650 PCM

£650 DEPOSIT PLUS OTHER FEES

BIRMINGHAM ROAD, B71 4JQ

NEW TO LET

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Fully Refurbished, £650 PCM

£650 DEPOSIT PLUS OTHER FEES

SAMS LANE, B70 7EG

TO LET

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Credit Check Required
- £450 PCM

£450 DEPOSIT PLUS OTHER FEES

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New

WARLEY WOODS AREA, OLDBURY, Harborne Road

An opportunity to acquire a well presented 2 bedroomed bungalow, occupying a pleasant position within this popular neighbourhood, convenient for Warley Woods, having double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, fitted kitchen, side passage/utility, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC G. BEARWOOD OFFICE

£215,000

New

OLDBURY, Valentine Road

Deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, spacious lounge, rear vestibule, attractive kitchen, lobby area (with downstairs wc off), garden room, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, off road parking, garage/useful store and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the Region Of £137,500

New

OLDBURY, Primrose Bank

Deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having gas radiator heating and comprising :- Porch entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), spacious lounge (archway to:) dining area/garden room, kitchen (having oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, integral garage and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £134,950

BEARWOOD AREA, Rathbone Road

A rare opportunity to acquire AN EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, considerably improved and well presented end position FAMILY HOME with many CHARACTER FEATURES, convenient for Bearwood town centre, the property truly requires an internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge, dining/sitting room, inner hall, super re-fitted breakfast kitchen (with integral oven/hob), 3 GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, study, attractive bathroom, pleasant rear garden, GARAGE AT REAR. NO UPWARD CHAIN. SUBSTANTIAL £15,000 REDUCTION FOR SWIFT SALE. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price — WAS £249,950 NOW £235,000 TO INCLUDE GARAGE AT REAR

OLDBURY, Bristam Close

Delightful, spacious, modern 3 BEDROOMED semi detached occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, super re-fitted dining kitchen (with range of integral appliances), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, and pleasant good sized rear garden. must be viewed. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Now available — Offers around £159,950

OLDBURY, Conway Avenue

SPACIOUS, DELIGHTFULLY PRESENTED, 3 bed traditional style semi detached property, occupying a pleasant CUL-DE-SAC position within this POPULAR neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, spacious re-fitted dining kitchen, utility, 3 good sized bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, drive providing off road parking and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price — WAS £159,950 NOW £154,950

SMETHWICK, Valley Road

Deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed end terraced property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, lounge, fitted dining kitchen (with integral oven/hob and integrated fridge), rear vestibule area (having downstairs wc off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price — WAS £119,950 NOW £116,950

SMETHWICK, Cheshire Road

A deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and comprising :-Entrance hall, lounge, sitting/dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, additional w.c (off landing), and rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price — WAS £114,950 NOW £109,950

SMETHWICK, SANDON ROAD, Milton Court

Spacious, well presented 2 bedroomed flat occupying a pleasant position within this retirement complex, most convenient for Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and comprising :- Entrance hall (with intercom receiver), delightful lounge, attractive kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, communal garden, pleasant residents lounge and communal parking area. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

New price — WAS £69,950 NOW £64,950

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Lovely five-bed home for £249,900

THIS immaculately refurbished stunning five-bedroomed semi-detached property in Moat Road, Oldbury has been finished to an extremely high specification, including a speaker system and CCTV.

It is available for £249,900 and has an entrance porch with spotlights and tiled flooring, an entrance hall with spotlights, laminate flooring and stairs off, a lounge with laminate flooring and oak double doors to a new kitchen/diner with soft close units and granite working surfaces, under floor heating, laminated and tiled flooring, double doors to the garden, a five-ring gas hob with extractor above and marble splash back, an electric oven and grill, space for an American-style fridge freezer, central island unit with coloured mood effect lighting above, mood effect lighting to base units, utility, downstairs shower room, five bedrooms and a bathroom, shower room and rear garden.

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EPC: D

Rowley Regis
Powke Lane
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- Main bedroom with en-suite facilities

£895pcm

NEW

EPC: TBC

Wednesbury
Rachael Gardens
- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining area
- Separate breakfast area
- Fitted kitchen with oven & gas hob
- Family bathroom
- Alarm system

£700pcm

EPC: C

West Bromwich
St. Christopher Close
- Three bed detached
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Centrally heated
- Convenient to the M5 (Junction 1)
- Dining room area

£700pcm

EPC: E

Tipton
Watery Lane
- Three bed detached house
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Central heating & double glazing
- Landscaped gardens
- Fitted breakfast kitchen

£625pcm

REDUCED

EPC: C

Tipton
Leveson Drive
- Three bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Alarmed
- Garage

£600pcm

EPC: TBC

Tipton
Galton Close
- Three bed detached
- Fully furnished property
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Luxury bathroom
- Private rear garden
- Garage

£600pcm

NEW

EPC: C

Tipton
Patricia Drive
- Two bed semi
- Alarmed
- Gas central heated
- Double glazed
- Spacious lounge
- Fully fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower

£525pcm

NEW

EPC: C

Tipton
Scott Street
- Two bed mid terraced mews house
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Allocated parking
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Double glazed throughout

£475pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Great Meadow
- One bed coach house
- Fully alarmed
- Unfurnished
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bedroom with built in wardrobes

£475pcm

NEW

EPC: B

Tipton
Gough Drive
- One bedroom first floor apartment
- Kitchen with integrated cooker
- Bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- Bathroom with bath and shower facilities

£450pcm

EPC: B

Tipton
Gough Drive
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- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- Fitted bath and shower

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Open-topped elegance that is affordable

By James Parker

If you've ever owned an affordably priced convertible, then you'll know that cars of this kind come with one major problem: you can't comfortably fit adult passengers in the back over any real distance.

That's because models of this sort are largely based on Focus-sized family hatchbacks that are compact to start with and become even more so at the rear once you have to find space for a bulky hood. Cabriolets based on larger, more prestigious designs do better, but they're expensive.

You'd think then, that there'd be a gap in the market here – and you'd be right. Here's the car that fills it – Vauxhall's Cascada.

From the moment you take a seat and set off in this car, it's clear that this is a luxury convertible first and foremost, rather than any kind of low-slung roadster. But that doesn't mean it can't be dynamically adept. Indeed it must be if Vauxhall's pretensions of tilting at the up-market German brands are to be credibly realised. That's why the spec sheet promises HiPerStrut suspension from the 170mph Insignia VXR. And the FlexRide adaptive damping system that does so much to make the brand's Astra VXR such a credibly competitive hot hatch.

Here though, this technology is there to dynamically improve a very different kind of car, over two tonnes in weight and lacking the kind of fixed roof that would normally be key to structural rigidity. It could have all produced a rather disastrous result, had this Cascada been simply a convertible spin-off from an ordinary Vauxhall hatch, as was its direct Astra Twin Top predecessor. But it isn't. This, in contrast, is the first time the brand has properly designed and purpose-built a opentopped car from scratch since the early 1930s. They've done the job properly.

Scores

Under the bonnet, Vauxhall has wheeled out the best it has in terms of current engine technology, including an all-new 1.6- litre SIDI (or 'Spark Ignition Direct Injection') petrol unit that offers 170PS when mated to a 6-speed automatic gearbox. If that's not fast enough, you can also ask your dealer about a 200PS manual gearbox version. There's also an entry-level 140PS 1.4-litre petrol turbo unit and two 2.0 CDTi diesels, one with 165PS and a minority interest 195PS Bi-Turbo version.

The Cascada scores straight off the bat by looking the part. It's certainly quite a size, at over 4.7m long and over 1.8m wide. When the top's down, it has a very clean profile, with no roof-top cover or visible roll-over protection disturbing the car's silhouette behind the steeply-raked A-pillar.

At the wheel where you sit quite high up, the cabin offers a mixture of Vauxhall familiarity and some hand crafted detailing you might not associate with this blue collar brand. The belt butler for example that extends over your shoulder and hands you your belt as you take your seat. All of which leaves what is probably this car's defining feature, its back seat accommodation. Once in place, most adults should be quite comfortable and it's all a world away from similarly-priced compact convertibles where in most cases, the back of the front seat tends to sit virtually against the rear seat's cushion.

Looking at one of those Golf, Megane or Peugeot 308CC-based family hatchback-shaped convertibles? They're very nice, but it would surely be even better if you were able to stretch to something a little more up-market that would have proper room for two adults in the back – an Audi A5 Cabriolet or a Volvo C70 for example. Maybe even a convertible BMW 3 Series – though that's pricier again. If that's the position you're in, then the Cascada is a car you should try. The kind of smart, stylish looks and decent rear seat space you'd expect to have to pay £30,000 to £40,000 for, all at the kind of £24,000 to £30,000 budget.

All models get the powered roof, all-round power windows, alloy wheels, daytime running lights and air conditioning you'd expect from a modern £25,000 convertible and also include rear parking sensors, LED tail lights, sports front seats, cruise control, a leather covered steering wheel, a trip computer and a digital radio with USB and Aux-in connectivity. Plusher versions like this one get heated seats with leather trim, front foglamps and rain-sensitive wipers, plus auto headlamps that can dip themselves at night.

A larger car is inevitably a heavier car. So given that unlike its family hatchback-shaped cabriolet counterparts, this Cascada has proper room for four and weighs over two tonnes, you'd expect running costs to be higher. Which is not necessarily the case, thanks to features like a start/stop system fitted across the range which cuts the engine when you don't need it, stuck in traffic or waiting at the lights.

And the results? Well, take the 1.4T 140PS petrol variant, capable of 44.8mpg on the combined cycle and 148g/km of CO2. Other Cascada variants don't fare quite as well as that: the 1.6 SIDI petrol auto for example, manages 39.2mpg on the combined cycle and 168g/km of CO2. Then there are the diesel versions of this Vauxhall, with both 165 and 195PS versions of the 2.0 CDTi unit delivering 54.3mpg on the combined cycle and 138g/km of CO2.

These days, Vauxhall is a company with some genuinely desirable products in its portfolio. Here's one of them.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, April 2, 2015

Mazda brings lot to party

By Graham Breeze

Mazda is recovering quickly after UK sales took a big hit because of the pound to yen exchange rate – and you can expect things to get even better now that the new Mazda2 is in showrooms.

There's now a choice of 12 petrol and four dieses in a 16-strong line-up of the company's best-selling UK model and a five level grade structure of SE, SE-L, SE-L Nav, Sport and Sport Nav with prices from £11,995 to £17,395.

And with the brand's Skyactiv technology on board it's little wonder Mazda bosses are predicting a 24 percent sales growth this year against pretty flat industry sales.

The B-segment is a tough place to compete but using Skyactiv technology with its striking 'KODO – Soul of Motion' design philosophy, Mazda claim this model brings new levels of technological sophistication, driving pleasure and safety to the party.

At first glance there's no mistaking this latest addition to the Mazda family which has particularly attractive headlamp styling and a muscular stance.

But the outstanding features for me come in the safety department where Mazda has really outshone the rest of the competition in this sector.

There's an array of active safety systems which you don't normally get at this level, including Anti-lock Brakes (ABS), Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Electronic Brake Assist (EBA), Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), Traction Control System (TCS) and Emergency Stop Signalling (ESS).

You also get,Hill Hold Assist (HHA) and a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS as standard across the model range.

SE-L (90ps & 105ps Diesel), Sport, Sport Nav grades and the Sports Launch Edition model are further equipped with a Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS), and Smart City Brake Support (SCBS).

Operating between speeds of 2.5 and 18.5mph, SCBS automatically applies the brakes if the system detects an imminent frontal impact.

Technology

There's also an optional Safety Pack on 115ps Sport Nav models offering even higher levels of driver assistance with High Beam Control (HBC), Blind Spot Monitoring (BSM) and Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) system, and an Active Driving Display.

Mazda has gone even further by Introducing my favourite technology to the model with the arrival of head-up display to the B-segment for the first time. That means you get to see your speed displayed on the windscreen, so there's no excuse for picking up tickets.

The cabin is a comfortable place to be with increased shoulder room up front, but it's still a little tight for six-footers in the back and the boot fails the golf clubs test unless you fold down the splitting rear seats.

There's now an easy to handle "multi-media commander" situated between the front seats which enables the driver to control the seven-inch touch screen display system.

'Mazda might just be under-cooking their sales predictions. I think we will be seeing a lot of this car in the next 12 months.'

DAB radio features for the first time in the Mazda2 and, in SE-L Nav and Sport Nav grades, a new navigation system offers improved search features and three years of free map updates.

Mazda's in-car connectivity system works with compatible iPhone and Android smartphones to access a variety of free mobile content via Aha™, a cloud platform-based service which features thousands of stations, personalised, location-based services and both Twitter and Facebook audio feeds.

MZD Connect also supports iPod®, MP3 and CD playback, terrestrial radio, SMS and readout functions.

The Skyactive 105PS Sports Diesel is my favourite from the range at £17,395 and producing only 89g/km of emissions.

On top of that you can reach 62mph in 10.1secs and get a top speed of 111mph and still achieve over 80mpg.

Mazda might just be under-cooking their sales predictions.

I think we will be seeing a lot of this car in the next 12 months.

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Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

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NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

vets

Express & Star

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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business directory

commercial premises

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6 Property

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THREE BED spacious semi det house, Hednesford, off road parking, GCH, DG, no DSS / smokers suit Family, refs req plus dep £600pcm 07940 497266 / 01785 822376.

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WALSALLnr Town Centre. Rooms to let in shared house, £70 all inc. Fully furnished. 07825 581676.

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7 Jobs

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Duties ultimately, will include; Unloading, Un-Packing, Building & Commissioning CNC Machine Tools, involving Over Head Crane Operating & Fork Lift Truck Driving. Training Supplied, if necessary.

Qualifications are an advantage, but not essential, Salary will be commensurate to ability and experience, with excellent advancement opportunities.

This is an ideal Career opportunity, within a growing Business for a individual currently Studying Engineering, or wishing to enter into the field, as the job could involve most aspects of Engineering from Design and Development, through to Programming and Manufacturing. Alternatively, an existing Engineering employee, wishing to progress.

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Office based roles

HEALTH & SAFETY / QA MANAGER:-

Reporting directly to the Managing Director this position involves maintaining the company's ISO 9001:2008 approved "Quality Management System" and responsibility for the company's "Health & Safety" systems. Duties involve keeping all systems up to date including risk assessments, safety inspections, COSHH compliance etc. Applicants must have good written and oral communication skills and ideally have recognised Health & Safety qualifications (e.g. IOSH or NEBOSH). Previous experience of this type of role in an engineering environment is highly desirable. **Ref: Health & Safety Manager**

PAYROLL (AND ACCOUNTS ADMINISTRATION):-

The primary function of this role is to process the weekly payroll, using "Sage 50 Payroll" software, along with all the associated documentation and record keeping (HMRC submissions, Statutory Sick Pay, Working Time Directive compliance etc). Previous payroll experience, and use of "Sage 50 Payroll" software, is a definite advantage. A secondary element of the role is assisting within the accounts department. **Ref: Payroll**

PLATE ROLLING/FORMING SALES AND ORDER-PROCESSING POSITION:-

Due to continued success of the plate rolling/forming and welding division of Angle Ring a position is available in the sales department for someone with the appropriate background. Ideally the applicant should have a good familiarity with the different grades of plate available and knowledge of bending and welding of plate would be an advantage. Applicants must feel confident with technical specifications and able to break down customer requirements into production processes to enable pricing and production details to be produced.
Ref: Plate Rolling Sales

PURCHASING:-

Applicants should have a good knowledge of steel sections and plates including the associated test certificates. They should also have experience in building relationships with suppliers. Applicants need to be well organised, have a good understanding of IT systems and be able to work well with other people both within the company and also with suppliers. Previous experience with quality systems such as ISO 9001 would be an advantage. **Ref: Purchasing**

WELDING ENGINEER:-

This position is to initially assist our current Welding Engineer but with great future career prospects. Candidates must have both technical and practical experience of various welding processes such as submerged arc, MIG/MAG, FCAW and TIG in various materials. Material types welded include Carbon steels, High yield steels, Low alloy steels, Stainless steels, Nickel and Chrome alloys and also Aluminium. Applicants must be familiar with writing and compiling WPQR, WPS, Welder qualifications and document packages. Knowledge and experience of different codes of practice, including ASME, BS EN 15614, AWS D1.1, and DNV is essential. Experience in a quality environment and working knowledge of quality systems such as ISO 9001 would be beneficial. Existing qualifications must include HNC (or higher) in an engineering discipline such as "Fabrication and welding". The qualification of being an approved "Responsible Welding Coordinator (RWC)" would be a definite advantage. **Ref: Welding Engineer**

Factory based roles

HGV DRIVER:-

Delivering the company's products to all areas of the UK, the job requires regular nights out (overnight subsistence is paid). Drivers are required to load their own vehicles in a safe and correct manner. A category C (class 2) driving licence is the minimum requirement and should preferably be "clean". A current "Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)" certificate is essential. **Ref: HGV driver**

MAINTENANCE FITTER:-

Applicants must have a good understanding of and experience with electrical systems, hydraulic circuits and general mechanical "fitting". Certificated training for a forklift truck and access platform and also a car-driving license would all be advantageous. Previous experience in maintaining electric overhead cranes would also be favourable. **Ref: Maintenance Fitter**

PLATE ROLL OPERATOR:-

Experience of operating large plate rolls is a requirement. Candidates must be familiar with the operation of plate roll machines and be accustomed to working to a high degree of accuracy. **Ref: Plate Roller Operator**

PRESS BRAKE OPERATOR:-

This is an opportunity, for a candidate possessing the appropriate experience, to join our busy press-braking department. Applicants need to be able to press cones, square to rounds, as well as general pressing (angles/channels etc). Working on 4m to 10m long press brakes a high degree of experience and confidence is essential. Ideally applicants should hold a "press setting" certificate. **Ref: Press Brake Operator**

SECTION BENDING MACHINE OPERATOR:-

A good engineering background is essential. The role would suit a person with a maintenance or skilled fabricator type background or, ideally, previous bending experience. Necessary training will be provided. **Ref: Bending Machine Operator**

WELDER (QUALIFIED):-

Experience in a variety of welding techniques is essential. Processes used are MIG/MAG, TIG, Sub Arc and MMA. Proof of previous approvals will be required. Welds produced need to be of the highest quality as most of them are subject to "Non-Destructive Testing (NDT)".
Ref: Welder

Apply in writing with current CV to:- The Angle Ring Company Limited, Bloomfield Road, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 9EH. Please ensure that you clearly identify to which position you are applying.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

New machinery leads to expansion for firm

Two new sets of large plate rolls have been installed at The Angle Ring Company in Tipton, increasing rolling capacity to a whole range of markets.

Ordered in 2014 and installed earlier this year, both sets have been custom made to exacting specifications allowing a wider range of plates and sheet steel to be rolled.

When combined with Angle Ring's existing plate rolling, press-braking and heavy plate pressing facilities they help create the widest range of plate bending services in the UK which complements Angle Ring's already extensive range of bending services in steel sections (beams, tube, columns, etc).

Both new sets of plate rolls are able to bend plate up to 3000mm wide and together offer a truly outstanding range of thicknesses from 5mm plate through to an incredible 130mm thickness in the full 3000mm length, with the larger machine able to cold roll plate over 150mm thick in shorter lengths.

Throughout the recent recession Angle Ring did not make a single redundancy and with the installation of new machinery is now expanding its workforce with both skilled production workers and qualified office staff.

The new machines will team up with over 60 skilled production staff and more than 40 bending machines to offer a truly comprehensive range of steel bending services from cold rolling small angles and flats to hot bending large diameter tubes.

Angle Ring produce curved steel pieces for a wide range of markets including structural buildings, sculptures, manufacturing, engineering, petrochemical and renewable energy.

Recent iconic work includes a 12 metre high spade sculpture at the Percy Thrower Garden Centre in Shrewsbury and the stunning Kelpies near Falkirk in Scotland.

Angle Ring is accredited to the quality system ISO9001:2008 and also has the requisite Factory Production Control system to allow CE Marking of structural steelwork in accordance with BSEN 1090 up to Execution Class 4 – its highest level.

With an experienced skilled workforce and a fresh influx of staff Angle Ring are certainly set to remain one of Tipton's prominent employers.

Above and below, the new machinery that has been installed at The Angle Ring Company, in Tipton

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22.5 hours per week - £10.00 per hour

You will need to be a resourceful, organised, reliable individual, able to work on your own initiative to complete a broad range of tasks including general home maintenance tasks, garden maintenance and painting and decorating. Previous experience as a school/office site manager or similar role and a geographical knowledge of the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell would be advantageous. You will need a full driving licence and access to your own vehicle. Expenses will be paid for travel undertaken in connection with work related duties.

The post is contracted for 22.5 hrs per week but overtime will be offered in addition to this where demand requires increased service delivery.

For an application form for the above post please contact Abi O'Toole on 0121 500 1860 or e-mail Abigail.O'Toole@ageuksandwell.org.uk.
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Telephone 07444 072591.

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public & legal notices

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(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

JOAN PASSEY
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 56 Slatch House Road Smethwick B67 5QB, who died on 29/12/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 03/06/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
NORTHWOOD BANKS & CO
1600-1602 Coventry Road Yardley
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LICENSING ACT 2003
I, Balwinder Singh of Costcutter 125 Hill Top West Bromwich B70 ORU
Hereby give notice I have applied under S34, Licensing Act 2003 for the following variations to the premises licence for the above mentioned premises, namely
To vary the hours for the sale of Alcohol
MON-SUN 05:00 - 23:00
Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to SANDWELL M.B.C TRADING STANDARDS LICENSING TEAM UNIT 33 CONEYGREE ROAD TIPTON DY4 8XR not later than 20TH April 2015. (Licensing_Team@sandwell.gov.uk)
A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.
It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.
PMB Licensing
Authorised Agents
Dated 23rd March 2015

public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Great Barr Bridleway Refs BR2A/WB and BR2B/WB and Byway Refs CRF4/WB and CRF4B/WB) (Temporary Footpath Closures) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit pedestrians from proceeding along byways ref. CRF4/WB and CRF4B/WB and horses and riders from proceeding along bridleways ref. BR2A/WB and BR2B/WB. Work is expected to be completed by 12/09/15, effective from 3/04/15. Pedestrians will be diverted via the footpaths adjacent to those which are closed. Purpose – pylon replacement by National Grid.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Windmill Lane, Smethwick) (Temporary One-Way Operation) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Windmill Lane, Smethwick between the entrance to the Windmill Shopping Centre and Cape Hill other than in a northerly direction. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 19/04/15, effective from 19/04/15. Alternative route for south bound vehicles via Grove Lane and Cape Hill. Purpose – work to a T-Mobile phone mast by Beacon Comms.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/15/58040	Bennington Developments	Land At Graingers Lane Cradley Heath	Proposed residential development of 19 dwellings (outline application with access, appearance, layout and scale reserved).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

10 Personals

general

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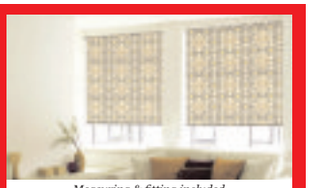

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Gabriel is given green light to rejoin club

TARRYCK Gabriel has been given the green light to rejoin Halesowen Cricket Club.

The club's overseas player is currently making plans to make the trip from St Lucia to spend the summer at Seth Somers Park after a successful visa application.

And he said: "I am really looking forward to being back with Halesowen for a second season.

"I know the boys very well and I like the look of the new signings the club has made.

"It's fair to say I didn't have the most successful season last year, but I'm sure the benefit of a year's experience of playing in England will help. This is a big year for me and the club."

Meanwhile the club have been handed a double boost off the field with more grants coming their way.

The England and Wales Cricket Trust had already agreed to underwrite a substantial part of replacing the roll on cover tops and purchase of matting.

And repairs to the clubhouse roof can now be completed following the news that the Ibstock Cory Environmental trust had agreed to fund the project.

Tickets are selling fast for the special appearance from charismatic former World Darts semi-finalist Wayne Mardle at the club on Wednesday April 29.

Stourbridge based micro-brewery, Green Duck Beer Co have stepped up to the oche to sponsor the evening which will feature exhibition darts and a Q&A with the Sky Sports man.

Tickets are £10 and available from the club or online at sportstalkevents.co.uk.

Nicholls – Albion's joker in the pack

Nicholls, front row, second from right shortly before the 1954 FA Cup final

TWENTY years ago, Albion fans lost one of their favourite sons. Johnny Nicholls' career might never have reached the heights it threatened to.

But the man whose skill for sniffing out goals was a major feature of the Baggies' 1950s 'Team of the Century' will always be revered by those who watched him as a cheeky, precociously-talented youngster.

As a player, Nicholls, who died aged 64, was a fox in the box with the priceless knack of sensing a chance.

And in the dressing room, the inside forward was the joker in the pack.

Nicholls' finest hour for Albion came at Wembley in 1954 when he and Vic Buckingham's stylish side lifted the FA Cup after victory over Tom Finney's Preston. And the impact of the forward and his teammates were not lost on a young defender who would make his own mark on Baggies folklore 14 years later.

"It's funny you should ask me this week of all weeks," says Graham Williams, captain of Albion's 1968 FA Cup-winning side. "Next week we're having a day to remember Jeff Astle, and Johnny was just as funny as Jeff was.

"I was only a youth player when Johnny was about but being at the club at that time was marvellous. With him, Ronnie Allen, Ray Barlow and their like around, it was like being at a university of football.

"Johnny and Ronnie were both really funny and were always playing practical jokes on each other."

Tividale in return to form to take the points

Tividale 2 Stocksbridge 1

TIVIDALE returned to form to grab the Evo-Stik First Division South spoils with a determined display against Stocksbridge Park Steels.

The hosts were on the front foot from the off and created the first chance after 13 minutes when striker Karl Edwards burst through on goal but could only shoot wide under pressure.

Tividale were on top early on took the lead on 22 minutes when a cross into the Stocksbridge penalty area from Nigel Penney was met by Leigh Downing, with his shot taking a deflection off Stocksbridge defender Rory Coleman and wrong-footing keeper Peter Denton.

It was almost 2-0 on 38 minutes when an Edwards header from a Zach Foster corner was cleared off the line by Coleman.

Stocksbridge levelled nine minutes into the second period.

The goal came from an innocuous free-kick 20 yards out from Coleman.

The ball looked to be covered by Tividale keeper Charlie Price but somehow evaded him and it ended up in the back of his net.

It was Tividalde who bagged the winner. Substitute Ryan Winwood took on his man down the right wing, played the ball into fellow sub Jordan Archer, who swept the ball out to Downing on the left-side of the penalty area and he fired past Denton.

Tividale then managed the rest of the game with just the one serious threat to their goal. That was when a Harrison Biggins free-kick came back off Price's right upright and away to safety.

Haseley to the rescue as Yeltz battle back

Halesowen Town 1 Trafford 1

BEN Haseley rescued a point for Halesowen after a host of chances went begging for them to take the match against second-from-bottom Trafford.

Despite staring relegation in the face, a determined Trafford went close after six minutes but home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant had different ideas and saved in a one-on-one with Liam Blake.

It was then one-way traffic as Halesowen took hold of the game and laid siege on a square-looking Trafford defence.

Aaron Daniels snatched at the ball to hit over the bar from five yards and then missed another opportunity when he lofted a weak 17th minute clearance over the bar.

David Meese struck the side-netting and Iyseden Christie hit weakly at Trafford goalkeeper Thomas Read before Christie squandered another chance in the 39th minute when clear on goal.

Injury

Adam Jones landed a sucker punch to take the visitors into the lead from Andrew Smart's free-kick in the second minute of first half injury time.

In continued home pressure, Read clawed away a 58th minute shot from Aaron Griffiths and tipped another Griffiths effort over the bar two minutes later.

It was nearly disaster for the Yeltz as relegation-doomed Trafford almost doubled their lead in the 69th minute but Jeff King planted Sargeant's poor clearance well wide.

The North's resistance was finally broken when Haseley side-stepped his marker to beat Read low down with a 70th minute equaliser from the edge of the penalty area.

The Yeltz almost found a late winner but Read saved again after debut substitute Ashleigh Granville cut in from the left, leaving the Yeltz still seeking a first victory in 10 games.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant; Green, Griffiths (Granville 65), Forde, Hull (c), Tilt, Charlton, Tonks, Christie, Daniels (Haseley HT), Meese.
Unused Subs: Downes, Heard, Watson.
Attendance: 477

Aston stops opponent in second

Boxer Ryan Aston on the offensive during the bout at the weekend

IT'S onwards and upwards for Ryan Aston and Ricky Summers after they added to their win ratios at the Venue in Dudley.

Dudley's Aston scored a great second-round stoppage over Martins Kukulis, as he went up the gears to bash away at the body.

Tipton's Summers went the distance with Josef Obeslo, but managed to hurt the Czech toughman in both the first and fourth round.

The two have now been told to prepare for action at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday June 6, where Aston will be looking to box for a title at light middleweight.

Summers will undertake a six-rounder against an opponent who, as the show is due to be aired on BoxNation, could be a formidable light heavyweight from Frank Warren's camp.

It's 10 without defeat now for Aston, who took less time to dispose of the Latvian than it took former sparring partner George Groves and fearsome world champion Gennady Golovkin.

Emerging to the strains of Blue Moon, he brought the sun down on Kukulis with 20 seconds of the second left.

All Kukulis could do was cover up and avoid getting knocked out, as Aston bashed away.

Sherwood said to be targeting young talent

VILLA manager Tim Sherwood has reportedly targeted summer moves for a number of young English players excelling in the Championship.

Leeds United duo Sam Byram and Lewis Cook and Ipswich Town pair Tyrone Mings and Ted Bishop are four of the players to have caught Sherwood's eye, according to reports. All four have played key roles for their clubs this season and are all no older than 22.

Byram has been a Leeds regular since 2012 and made more than 100 appearances for the Yorkshire side, while Cook, Mings and Bishop have enjoyed breakout campaigns this term.

Meanwhile, American billionaire Randy Lerner is poised to complete the sale of Aston Villa to a UK-based group for £150million, according to reports.

Late penalty nets victory for Darlaston

Wyrley Rns 2 Darlaston Tn 3

DARLASTON Town (1874) grabbed a dramatic win over Wyrley grabbing two late goals to give them the win and boost their West Midlands League Division Two title hopes.

The visitors looked set to be heading for defeat as they trailed 2-1 with just a minute of the game left, but two late strikes saw them secure a smash and grab success.

Darlaston opened quite brightly but were then rocked when Wyrley took the lead through Hayden Hughes.after 12 minutes of play.

The title hopefuls struggled to get into top gear after the break but finally levelled on 70 minutes when Mark Swann, headed home. A lack of concentration by the Darlaston saw Hughes net a second. But Darlaston snatched victory with a last-minute penalty.

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Sako never had a get out option

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has admitted they have never discussed a get-out clause with Bakary Sako – as Albion look set to target him again.

Ten years ago, Wolves persuaded Joleon Lescott to sign a new deal with a gentleman's agreement that he could leave 12 months later if the club weren't promoted and a Premier League club came in for him.

Lescott was sold to Everton for £5m plus a £2m sell-on when he was transferred to Manchester City in 2009.

But the level of Sako's wages and the club's finances – around £25,000-a-week – effectively prevent any chance of a repeat scenario.

Beneficial

The 26-year-old Mali international earns way more than any other Wolves player apart from Kevin Doyle after they slashed the wage bill following the double relegation.

Albion, who were one of three clubs that had bids of around £2m rejected in January, could easily trump his current salary.

Jackett indicated the idea of a new deal with a clause was a non-starter.

"There's been no discussion about a new contract with any type of clause in," said the boss.

"From the club's point of view, I don't think that would have been beneficial to us."

The Baggies look like returning for the winger this summer when Sako, who arrived from St Etienne in 2012, is out of contract and available on a free transfer. But Jackett believes such is the bond between Sako, the fans and the club that he could still remain at Wolves beyond June 30.

I now have to pace myself, says champ Paralympian Ellie

WALSALL'S four-time Paralympic champion Ellie Simmonds admits she has had to rein herself in as the years take their toll – but she is keen to continue swimming for the long term.

Simmonds has been named in an 18-strong Great Britain squad for the IPC World Championships, which take place in Glasgow's Tollcross pool from July 13-19.

The 20-year-old hopes to take part in five events – three freestyle, the 100m breaststroke and the 200m individual medley – but she would rather do more.

Simmonds, who will be competing in her fourth World Championships, said: "It's quite a busy schedule but it's a seven-day competition so I will get a few days off where I can relax.

"But it's great to be able to do five and have the variety. I think I'd be bored just doing one event so it's nice to have a variety.

"They are all totally different so it's exciting. I'm a lot older now so my body tires out more. I'm more fatigued.

"At 13 you are just a kid and you've got so much energy that you can do anything."

Heathens looking for perfect start

Speedway

CRADLEY are desperate to get their National League title defence off to the perfect start when Coventry visit Perry Barr next Wednesday.

The Heathens had mixed feelings after their defeat at the hands of Birmingham in a thriller last Wednesday in the second leg of the Travel Plus Tours Challenge, but they had already done enough to win the trophy.

Now skipper Max Clegg wants to see his side secure all three points in another derby clash.

He said: "Birmingham are our toughest test and we just missed out in a last heat decider against them, but we were the better team over two legs. Hopefully we can bounce back and get a win under our belt against Coventry next Wednesday which would be the perfect way for us to start the league programme.

"Coventry haven't had as much racing as we have, it's been good to get a couple of competitive meetings under our belt against Birmingham so hopefully we can be sharper."

Clegg is also full of praise for the bumper crowd which packed Perry Barr with plenty of Heathens fans making the short trip from the Cradley, Dudley, Stourbridge and Quarry Bank areas. He said: "It was great, coming from Yorkshire I don't know the area that well but I've got an idea that Cradley and the old stadium is about 12 miles from Birmingham so it's brilliant support.

"I hope they carry on for the season ahead because the management need convincing that it can work for everyone at Birmingham. I'm proud to be an asset of this great club and I want to be a part of the future here.

"Obviously I want to be a part of taking the club to a track closer to the Cradley area, but Birmingham is where we are at right now so let's enjoy it and have a great season."

BLAST AS BEARS BAG BRENDON

NEW ZEALAND captain and opening batsman Brendon McCullum is looking forward to playing at a "rocking" Edgbaston after signing for the last seven games of the Birmingham Bears' 2015 NatWest T20 Blast.

McCullum, 33, is recognised as one of the world's most explosive Twenty20 players and led the Black Caps to the final of ICC Cricket World Cup.

He will join up with the Bears following New Zealand's tour of England, with his first game scheduled to be against Lancashire Lightning at Emirates Old Trafford on Friday, June 26.

McCullum said: "The Birmingham Bears had a great season last year, including winning the NatWest T20 Blast, and hopefully I can make a big contribution and ensure that we can progress in the tournament.

Excited

"Edgbaston is a fantastic ground to play at and hopefully it will be rocking for the big Friday night matches.

"I'm really excited about becoming a Bear and the challenge ahead."

Birmingham Bears supporters will have the chance to see McCullum in action in three home matches at Edgbaston, including the visits of Derbyshire Falcons on July 3, Lancashire Lightning on July 17 and Northamptonshire Steelbacks on July 22.

Dougie Brown, Birmingham Bears director of cricket, said: "It was great to see bigger crowds at Edgbaston for our Friday night NatWest T20 Blast matches last season,.

"Hopefully the opportunity to see one of the greatest limited overs batsmen of the modern game will ensure that we get even more fans to Edgbaston and supporting the Bears in the new season."

McCullum is the leading run scorer in the history of international Twenty20s, with 2,105 runs at an average of 35.67, including two centuries.

He has enjoyed previous spells in England with Sussex Sharks and Glamorgan and was one of the leading run scorers in last year's Indian Premier League, scoring 405 runs for the Chennai Super Kings.

Brown added: "Brendon's dynamic performances in the ICC Cricket World Cup have demonstrated once again exactly why he is one of the most feared batsmen in the game. Securing his availability for our last seven games has to make him one of the biggest overseas player signings in the competition's history.

"His power at the top of the order and experience of playing in big matches are great assets to bolster our already strong squad as we look to win through to the quarter-finals and defend our NatWest T20 Blast title."

Brendon McCullum has signed to play T20 for Birmingham Bears

Strike duo are winning fitness fight

ALBION are set for a huge boost ahead of their Premier League clash with QPR on Saturday with strike pair Saido Berahino and Brown Ideye winning their fitness battles.

Both Berahino and Ideye are on course to face Rangers in the first of two vital back-to-back home games for the Baggies.

Boss Tony Pulis's decision to withdraw the duo from international duty seems set to be vindicated with his first-choice strikers making encouraging progress in their rehabilitation.

They now appear poised to start together as Pulis's men look to end any lingering relegation fears by collecting wins against Rangers and Leicester – the Premier League's current bottom two.

Ideye was forced to abandon plans for his long-awaited Nigeria comeback after a knee injury suffered in the Baggies' victory against Stoke failed to clear up in time for international duty.

The £10m record signing missed Albion's 3-0 defeat at Manchester City but is now on course to be fit by the weekend.

Berahino pulled out of the England Under-21s squad for their friendlies against Czech Republic and Germany in order to rest a foot injury.

Like Ideye, Berahino has been playing in recent weeks with painkilling injections but he too is expected to return to training in time to start against the Rs.

Albion have so far suffered no ill-effects from internationals, with Northern Ireland trio Gareth McAuley, Chris Baird and Chris Brunt and Scotland duo Darren Fletcher and James Morrison all returning fit from their national teams.

Brunt and midfielder Claudio Yacob are both available again after suspension.

Tickets for the QPR clash now on sale

TICKETS for Albion's Premier League game with QPR on Saturday are now on general sale.

Seats are priced at £25 for adults, £20 for over-65s, £15 for under-21s and students and £10 for under-17s.

Tickets are available to purchase online, in person from the East Stand Ticket Office or by calling 0121 227 2227.

Albion will welcome back Chris Brunt and Claudio Yacob from suspension.

They also hope to have strikers Saido Berahino and Brown Ideye fit as the Baggies look to extend a run of six wins in their last seven home games in all competitions.

★★★

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